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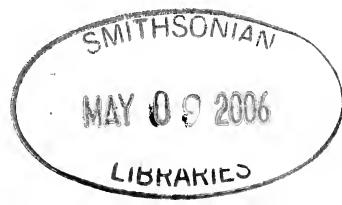
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Editor

Kent Fiala, 1714 Borland Road
Hillsborough, NC 27278
TheChat@carolinabirdclub.org

General Field Notes Editors

North Carolina

Will Cook

South Carolina

William Post

Briefs for the Files

Ricky Davis

Associate Editor

Ginger Travis

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Overlooked Historic Reports of the Trumpeter Swan In North Carolina

David S. Lee

*The Tortoise Reserve, P.O. Box 7083, White Lake, North Carolina,
torresinc@aol.com*

Past and current publications addressing the avifauna of North Carolina (e.g., Pearson et al. 1942, 1959, Potter et al. 1980, and recent various state bird checklists) all overlooked the historical occurrence of Trumpeter Swans (*Cygnus buccinator*) in our state. While *Birds of North Carolina* (Pearson et al. 1942) is the standard on which all modern treatments of the state's birds have been constructed, there were state and regional bird lists that preceded this work (Atkinson 1887, Smithwick 1897), and, surprisingly, the authors of these lists and accounts also were unaware of or rejected references to the occurrence of this swan in North Carolina. The absence of even a mention of this species in *Birds of North Carolina* (Pearson et al. 1942) is even more difficult to understand in that T. Gilbert Pearson's *Birds of North America* (Pearson 1936) discusses the occurrence of this bird on the Atlantic seaboard and considers the likelihood that some of the former wintering swan flocks on the Atlantic coast were Trumpeter Swans.

This continued omission is difficult to explain in view of the size of the bird and the fact that it was a game species well enough known to be given the common name "trumpeter" by colonial Atlantic coast settlers. The oversight is even stranger given that the earliest mention of these swans was by John Lawson (Lawson 1714), who provided the first natural history observations for Trumpeter Swans. Lawson, Surveyor General of North Carolina, is often cited in reviews of the historical natural history of the state. Furthermore, Lawson's writings were brought to light in a monograph of this swan published by the Fish and Wildlife Service in the 1960s (Banko 1960). Additionally, UNC Press republished Lawson's work in 1967 (Lawson 1709). The continued omission of this swan from the state's ornithological record for 300 years subsequent to these reports is for me difficult to understand. For the last 30 years I have been involved in tracking state bird records and, like others, had overlooked documentation of the swan's occurrence though it was well known to the ornithological community elsewhere.

This omission is embarrassing, as the species' occurrence in North Carolina is also noted by the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list and by Palmer (1976). Both are standard ornithological references. The fourth edition of the Check-list (AOU 1931) and former editions did not mention the occurrence of Trumpeter Swans in the east. However, by the fifth and subsequent editions (AOU 1957), the historical wintering range is described as including "... the Atlantic seaboard [south] to North Carolina". While

Palmer (1976) does not discuss the historic winter range of this swan per se, in a distribution map he clearly shows the southern limits of former wintering to include the northeastern portion of our state (p 61).

John Lawson (1714) was the first to recognize the differences between Trumpeter Swans and Tundra Swans, *C. columbianus*, and the first to positively record the Trumpeter's occurrence in any of the Atlantic coastal states. Referring to North Carolina he states:

Of the swans we have two sorts: the one we call the trumpeters because of a sort of Trompeting Noise they make. These are the largest sort we have; which come in great Flocks in the Winter, and stay, commonly in the fresh Rivers, until February, when the Spring comes on, when they go to the Lakes to breed. A Cygnet, that is a last year's Swan, is accounted a delicate dish, as indeed it is. They are known by their Head and Feathers, which are not so white as Old ones.

This species continued to be mentioned sporadically in North American literature in the following century (Hearne 1795, and the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804–1806, *in Coues 1893*). By the early 1800s, during the initial period of documentation of American ornithology by Audubon and others, this swan was seen only rarely in the Atlantic coastal states, but it was still present with some regularity in the Mississippi flyway.

Post-colonial period reports from eastern Canada and other states along the Atlantic coast [New Hampshire (Belknap 1784), Connecticut (Merriam 1877), Massachusetts (Allen 1878), New York (Pearson 1936), Delaware (Pearson 1936), Maryland (Banko 1960), and Virginia (Hornaday 1913, Banko 1960)] support the fact that up through the last half of the 19th century this swan was a regular migrant and winter resident here. Most of these reports are of individual birds, indicating relict survivors of a larger and more widespread Atlantic coastal state wintering population. The former wintering area for this swan in the east was from North Carolina north to wherever ice-free conditions existed. Prior to restoration efforts this swan was restricted to western states and provinces, as its numbers had been greatly diminished by the skin trade of the Hudson Bay Company. Company records from 1824–1828 show Trumpeter Swans once occurred east as far as western Michigan and were dwindling in numbers prior to the early 1800s (MacFarlane 1891, Mair 1908).

Other historically extinct and extirpated species are poorly known, but their presence is documented and restated in publications appearing long after their disappearance from North Carolina, e.g., Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*) and Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*). However, even for these species that persisted in North Carolina for 70 to 170 years after the reports of the Trumpeter Swan, there are very few reports and only several documented records (McKinley 1979, Lee 1999). Most attention has been focused on the loss of species known to have

bred in the state (see references cited by Lee 1999). For migrants such as Passenger Pigeons, *Ectopistes migratorius*, which were present throughout the 1800s, 200 years after Lawson's observations, there are only a few published reports from North Carolina.

In view of Lawson's writings it is clear that he was familiar with the distinction between the two species of native swans, and while his report may not meet the criteria of the state's bird records committee, there can be no question that this swan once occurred in North Carolina. The size of the birds and their vocalizations are, after all, their most distinctive features. Just by a process of elimination, the fact that the colonists recognized two native species with different behaviors wintering in the area leaves no doubt as to the identity of the birds. There would have been only two possible species, as the Mute Swan, *C. olor*, was not imported and released in North America until the late 1800s and feral populations did not become established until about 1920. Furthermore, Lawson's statements that these swans wintered on rivers later proved to be correct, as more knowledge of the species was compiled in the centuries that followed. By 1700 the actual boundaries of North Carolina were not defined as they are today, but the North Carolina/Virginia boundary was, as today, set at 36° 30' by the charter of 1665, and this would be the only boundary relevant to the geographic location of Lawson's swan report. Furthermore, considering Lawson's title it is safe to assume he knew this boundary.

Lawson's observations were important ones. At the time they were made (winter of 1700–1701) the frontier in the region extended only through the tidewater and outer coastal plain (Clay et al. 1975). Based on the timing and sequence of the development of political boundaries, it is likely that Lawson's reports were from the rivers of the Albemarle Sound region. His knowledge of migration to inland lakes may have come from Native Americans, as he was quite interested in all aspects of the Indians living in North Carolina. Thus, his brief statement provides a good snapshot of the distribution and behavior of Trumpeter Swans in the Atlantic flyway prior to the spread of Europeans (and gunpowder) through the region. As noted by Banko (1960), his comments were important to our understanding of the historic distribution of this swan and its behavior in the east. These swans were well known to early settlers, despite the fact that the species was not formally described until much later (Richardson 1831), and the mention of "large flocks" on "fresh Rivers" provides information as to their abundance and winter habitats. Both adults and immature birds wintered here. The February departure time shows the species to be a wintering migrant in the region. Additionally, it is important to note that while Lawson knew the Tundra Swan, he was not aware of the migratory behavior or nesting habitat of the species and did not elaborate on them.

It is interesting to see that a number of authors compiling information on state faunas and on species of extinct and extirpated birds in the eastern states also overlooked or dismissed historical records of this swan (Stewart and Robbins 1958, Lee 1984). In Virginia two specimen records of birds

reported to be procured on the coast proved to be in error; they came from Montana (Murray 1952). However, other seemingly valid Virginia reports appear to have been overlooked by Murray (1952). Beverly (1705) mentions a secondhand report, and Beatty and Mulloy (1940) note the swan's occurrence along the lower James River about 1736. Merriam (1877) reports that a hunter familiar with this swan, saw and heard it in Connecticut in the 1860s. The Connecticut bird record committee did not believe that this report was sufficiently corroborated for this swan to be included in the state's list (Zeranski and Baptist 1990). While specific reports may be in question, the collective evidence shows the species migrated to the Atlantic coastal states and wintered in numbers in Delaware and coastal Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina (Banko 1960, Palmer 1976, Mitchell 1994).

In late February 2004 a group of four Trumpeter Swans was seen at Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, NC. One was captured and photographed by the refuge staff on 25 February (Wendy Stenson pers. comm. to Scott Hartley). The record was subsequently accepted as valid by the North Carolina Bird Records Committee (LeGrand et al. 2005). This record is almost certainly a direct result of an ongoing program to restore the Trumpeter Swan back into its historical range. Current restoration projects are resulting in expansion of the species into both its former breeding and wintering ranges (Shea et al. 1991). For example, recent sightings and recoveries of wandering and wintering birds have been documented for Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Mississippi and a number of Midwestern states. One individual from a wild restored flock in Ontario was found in the Potomac River near Washington, DC (see Mitchell 1994 for summary). In view of this restoration, it seemed desirable to put the recent North Carolina record of the Trumpeter Swan into both its recent and historical contexts.

Historic reports as well as recent records of waterfowl of unknown origins are problematic for regional bird record committees. Because of the fact that waterfowl are known to escape from aviculturists, many records of free-ranging birds are suspect (see review of North Carolina records and reports in Lee 2000). The occurrence of wild birds from restoration projects presents issues not fitting current acceptance criteria. In the Trumpeter Swan's case the combination of a previously long-overlooked historical report and a recent record which almost certainly resulted from manipulated populations taxes our ability to evaluate the actual current status of this swan in North Carolina. The fact that this former migration destination and wintering area has been overlooked is understandable. To modern-day bird students this is a western species. Historical records for individual states are sketchy and were obscured by their omission from modern-day literature. In most cases these omissions were simple oversights, but in other cases well-intended people removed them from the record. The trend of not accepting historically significant reports because they fail to meet the modern standards imposed by people currently overseeing state fauna lists is an accepted process but is one that results in the loss of important regional

information. Perhaps too much focus is placed on whether the species is considered “countable” (see LeGrand et al. 2005) instead of on the actual significance of the report.

The practice of using predetermined criteria to evaluate bird reports is sound, though perhaps unfair to historical reports in that documentation standards in the early periods of ornithological literature were quite different from those of today, and many present-day tools, terms, and forms of information for documentation were unavailable. For extinct birds, and for extirpated species such as the Trumpeter Swan, where the discovery of additional historic reports from the east is unlikely, this poses a problem as interesting and important historical reports are cleansed from our regional knowledge. Historical reports such as Lawson’s may again become lost to future generations, as digging into early accounts is time consuming, and most of this type of information is unlikely to find its way into electronic databases. As we can see from the example of this one swan, even when the information is available in relatively recent and well-known publications, it can be overlooked in regional literature for decades and, in some cases, for centuries. In turn this omission could cloud our understanding and appreciation of recent records. Whether or not reports and records of this swan were accepted by various regional state records committees is not the primary point; we simply must consider these historical reports as relevant. Not to do so undermines the very purpose of keeping and reporting observations of significance.

I thank E. Wayne Irvin and Scott Hartley for making me aware of the birds’ occurrence at Pocosin Lakes NWR, and Gerry Rising and an anonymous reviewer for providing thoughtful comments.

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2005 Annual Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee

**Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.¹, Chair, Keith E. Camburn, Samuel
Cooper, Richard J. Davis, Eric V. Dean, Wayne K.
Forsythe, Russell L. Tyndall**

¹ NC Natural Heritage Program, 1601 MSC, Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

This report enumerates the decisions of the Carolina Bird Club's North Carolina Bird Records Committee during 2005. There were no changes to the membership of the Committee for the year. Committee voting information is referenced in parentheses (i.e., year report received, reference number).

Accepted as Valid

The reported identification is judged to be accurate, and the bird is judged to be of wild origin. Photographs and/or written descriptions of all accepted records have been deposited in the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences.

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) (05-06). One was seen by Don Hendershot on Lake Junaluska in Haywood County on 27 December 2004. It was later seen by Jonathan Mays and Bob Olthoff. The Committee accepted photos and a written description provided by Mays. It appears to be of the Richardson subspecies (*B. h. hutchinsii*), though the Committee did not vote on subspecific identity. The species is already on the Official List, with photographs accepted in 2004 of birds near the coast. This is the second accepted state record, the first for the Mountain Region.

Cackling Goose (05-21). One was seen by Harry LeGrand at Lake Mattamuskeet in Hyde County on 17 December 2005. LeGrand identified it as the Richardson subspecies. The Committee accepted a written description by LeGrand, though it did not vote on subspecific identity. This is the third accepted state record. A number of other reports have yet to be reviewed.

Mottled Duck (*Anas fulvigula*) (05-09). Two birds, perhaps a mated pair, were seen by Jamie Cameron, Sue Cameron, and Gary Haught on an impoundment at Camp Lejeune in Onslow County on 14 May 2005. The Committee accepted the many photographs and detailed written description provided by the first observer. Six of the seven Committee members accepted the report as being of Mottled; of these, four believed the birds to be of natural origin (most likely from the established population in South Carolina). As the majority (four versus three) considered the birds to likely have been of natural origin, the voting verdict was Accept as Valid. As the photos were accepted, the species is placed onto the Official List, with this being the first state record. Obviously, this species can be very difficult to

identify, as the female of the closely related Mallard (*A. platyrhynchos*) and both sexes of the American Black Duck (*A. rubripes*) are very similar. Hybrids of Mallards and American Black Ducks can be extremely similar to Mottled Ducks, as well.

European Storm-Petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*) (05-13). Two birds were seen in the Gulf Stream off Oregon Inlet on 30 May 2005 by several dozen birders. The Committee accepted photographs of one of the birds taken by George Armistead. This is the first accepted record for the state and apparently just the second accepted record for North American waters, with the first being a specimen from Sable Island, Nova Scotia, on 10 August 1970 (McNeil and Burton 1971, American Birding Association 2002). Acceptance of a photo places the species directly onto the Official List. The Committee (LeGrand et al. 2004) did not accept a 2003 photograph that might have been this species, owing to poor angle of the bird in the photo and the fact that the species was not reported from the boat at the time of the sighting. In hindsight, because of a flurry of sightings of this species offshore in late May and June 2005, that 2003 bird was likely a European Storm-Petrel.

European Storm-Petrel (05-14). One was observed in the Gulf Stream off Hatteras Inlet on 5 Jun 2005 by over 30 birders. The Committee accepted a written description provided by Harry LeGrand. This becomes the second accepted state record. At least three other observations, including photographs, were made off both Hatteras and Oregon inlets between 30 May and 5 June. The Committee has not reviewed all such reports, in part because there might be duplication of birds involved in these sightings.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) (05-12). One adult was observed near Avon on the Outer Banks of Dare County on 4 December 2004 by a group of four birders. The Committee accepted a written description, with sketches, provided by Janet Mehmel. The species is already on the Official List, and this is the seventh accepted record, with one previous early-winter (December) record.

Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) (05-05). One was photographed by Tim Cooper on 23 December 2004 at Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge in Currituck County. The Committee accepted a photograph and a written account provided by Cooper. The species is already on the Official List, as the only previous state record is a specimen from Chatham County in 1926. This is the first record for the coast.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) (05-23). Jeff Lewis found one in basic plumage, considered likely to be a second-year bird, at Manns Harbor in Dare County in December 2005. It was seen by dozens of other birders over the next few weeks. The Committee accepted a description and photos provided by Lewis. Though there are numerous state records, this is just the second for the winter season.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) (05-02). One was seen by Ricky Davis, Jeff Pippen, and Harry LeGrand at Jordan Lake in Chatham County on 16 January 2005. The Committee accepted a written description provided

by LeGrand. This is the first truly inland record for the state; there are several records from tidewater areas, as well as many from the coast.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) (05-03). An adult was seen at the north Raleigh landfill in Wake County on 22 January 2005 by Harry LeGrand, Derb Carter, and Jeff Pippen. The Committee accepted a written description provided by LeGrand. This is the first inland record for the state; all other records are from the immediate coast.

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*) (05-19). An adult male was photographed by Jeff Lewis on 15 July 2005 at a feeder in Colington in coastal Dare County. The species is already on the Official List as one was previously photographed at a feeder.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) (05-22). One was found by Sam Cooper in central Carteret County in December 2005 and was subsequently seen by a few other birders. The Committee accepted photos taken by Will Cook and Jeff Pippen. This is the fourth accepted state record, the second for the coastal region.

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) (05-20). One was discovered by Ricky Davis west of Lake Phelps in Washington County on 19 November 2005 and was seen over the next few weeks by many other birders. The Committee accepted Davis's written description, including a voice description, and photographs taken by Jeff Lewis. The species is already on the Official List; this is the third accepted state record – all from late fall or early winter and documented by photos, though there is no voice recording documentation.

Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco (*Junco hyemalis*, either *J. h. caniceps* or *J. h. dorsalis*) (05-07). One was observed at an urban feeding station in Charlotte on the remarkably late date of 26 May 2004 by a number of observers. The Committee accepted photos and a written description by Taylor Piephoff. This might be the first report of either subspecies in the state; these two subspecies breed in the southern Rocky Mountains. The "Oregon" (*J. h. thurberi*) and "Pink-sided" (*J. h. mearnsi*) subspecies, which breed from the central Rockies to the West Coast, have been previously reported, though not reviewed by the Committee. Of course, the full species is already on the Official List.

Unresolved

Further consideration by the Committee is needed.

Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*) (05-01). One was reported from Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover County, on 1 and 3 January 2005. It was seen in the ocean from several piers and compared with other loon species, including the similar Pacific Loon (*G. pacifica*). This report received more than 50% Accept as Valid votes but more than 25% Non-accept votes, all of which were Inadequately Documented votes. By regulation, the report will be sent for outside review. Several Committee members felt that, because the species is essentially unknown from the entire Eastern North America, including from western Atlantic Ocean waters, and because differentiation

from the Pacific Loon (from which it was split a few decades ago) can be difficult, acceptance of a sight record causes concern.

Mottled Duck (05-10). Two birds seen at an impoundment in coastal Onslow County on 14 May 2005 – the same date as Record 05-09 (above) – received a Send for Outside Review verdict, as there were more than 50% Accept as Valid votes but more than 25% Non-accept votes. The Committee is treating this report as different from Report 05-09, as the locations are sufficiently far apart that it is unlikely that the same two birds were involved in both reports. Despite thorough written details, there was no photographic documentation, causing a shift of a single vote from that of Report 05-09 but yielding a completely different verdict. In essence, photographic documentation might be necessary for Committee acceptance of future Mottled Duck reports.

Unaccepted Sighting

The bird is judged to be a species other than that reported, or there is insufficient documentation of the reported species.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) (05-17). One reported from the coast of Dare County in August 2005 was not accepted. The Committee believed that the single field mark observed – two long head plumes – was suggestive of Little Egret, but that other field marks distinguishing the bird from the very similar Snowy Egret (*E. thula*) were not seen or reported. In addition, the report was made by a solo observer and the bird could not be relocated later by other birders. There are no accepted state records for Little Egret.

Intermediate Egret (*Egretta intermedia*) (05-18). An egret was seen in flight by birders on a pelagic trip about 30 miles off the Dare County coast in June 2005. It was tentatively identified, after a later review of books and other literature, as an Intermediate Egret; however, no photos were taken. Two observers, well aware of the unlikelihood of Committee acceptance, submitted descriptions for consideration, wanting to have the report of an unusual egret mentioned in the literature. Because of the difficulty of identification of this Old World species, which has yet to be confirmed in the United States or Canada, it was not accepted by the Committee.

Common Murre (*Uria aalge*) (05-11). One reported from shore on the Dare County Outer Banks in February 2005 was not accepted. Most Committee members felt that other alcid species, particularly the much more likely Razorbill (*Alca torda*) and Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*), were not adequately eliminated from the written description. The species is, however, on the Official List, with a single accepted record of a bird photographed at Cape Hatteras Point in 2001.

Black Guillemot (*Cephus grylle*) (05-04). One reported along the coast of Hyde County in December 2004 was not accepted. As the bird was reported to be in breeding plumage, which is seldom seen in the winter season, and as the species is extremely rare along the mid-Atlantic coast, the report was unanimously not accepted. The species remains on the Provisional List, with two previously accepted sight records.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) (05-08). One reported in Raleigh in April 2005 was not accepted. It was determined that the bird in question was almost certainly an Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*). North Carolina remains one of the few Eastern states with no accepted records for this species (George 2000); none of the three state reports reviewed by the Committee has been accepted.

Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*) (05-16). Two birds, including a male, were reported from Wilkes County in July 2005. The Committee unanimously felt that the species was misidentified, with Summer Tanager (*P. rubra*) being the most likely candidate. Not surprisingly, there are no records for the state, and perhaps for the eastern part of the country, for this species of the southwestern United States and the Neotropics.

Unaccepted Origin

The reported identification is judged to be accurate, but the origin of the bird is uncertain (and thus might not be of natural origin).

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) (05-15). One was photographed by Wilton Lewis at the edge of a parking lot at a mall in downtown Asheville on 28 May 2005. The Committee unanimously accepted the photo as being of a Burrowing Owl. However, the Committee believed that an owl in downtown Asheville, along the edge of a busy shopping center parking lot, in late May, and apparently somewhat tame, likely did not arrive at that spot on its own. The species is already on the Official List, with two coastal records, one being a specimen.

Discussion

The review of reports by the North Carolina Bird Records Committee for 2005 resulted in adding two species to the state's Accepted List. European Storm-Petrel and Mottled Duck were each added directly to the Official List, based on accepted photographic documentation. However, during the year the American Ornithologists' Union (2005) lumped Black-backed Wagtail (formerly *Motacilla lugens*) with the White Wagtail (*M. alba*). Because both taxa were on the Official List, the removal of Black-backed Wagtail reduces the net increase in species on the Official List during the calendar year to just one. The current Official List now numbers 448 species, and the Provisional List remains at 16 species, for a total of 464 species on the state's Accepted List.

Acknowledgments

In addition to the many people named above who provided written material and photographs for the Committee to review, we thank Kent Fiala – webmaster of the Carolina Bird Club – for placing a number of the photographs on the club's website for Committee review and sending electronic submission of Rare Bird Report forms to the Committee chair.

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General Field Notes

General Field Notes briefly report such items as rare sightings, unusual behaviors, significant nesting records, or summaries of such items.

First, second, or third sightings of species in either state must be submitted to the appropriate Bird Records Committee prior to publication in The Chat.

Second Record of a Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) for North Carolina

Susan M. Campbell and John A. Gerwin

*North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, 11 W. Jones St.,
Raleigh, NC 27603-1740*

In early February 1997 the authors visited the home of the Madeiros family in Raleigh, Wake County, NC to investigate the identity of a female or juvenile male hummingbird whose occurrence had been brought to our attention by John Connors. Mrs. Madeiros had attended one of John's public programs the week before and informed him that a hummingbird had been regularly using a feeder in her yard for months. She had assumed it to be a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). Gerwin visited on February 6th and Campbell on the morning of the 8th. The bird's bill size and lack of any orange-buff on the flanks or rufous on any tail feathers eliminated possible candidates other than *Archilochus*. We concluded it was indeed an *Archilochus*, but both felt the bird had most of the characteristics of a Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*). Gerwin returned on the 8th to take photos, and Campbell on the 10th to make sound recordings of the bird's vocalizations. These slides and audio tape are on file in the Bird Collection at the North Carolina State Museum (NCSM Photo 579, Audio 1, respectively). Bob and Martha Sargent reviewed this material and agreed that the bird was a female Black-chinned Hummingbird.

The most obvious clue to this bird's identity was its behavior. It was constantly and vigorously spreading and pumping its tail while hovering at the feeder. The hummingbird often continued to flick its tail while perched, though not as rapidly as when hovering. Such persistent pumping is characteristic of Black-chinned Hummingbirds. Although Ruby-throated Hummingbirds occasionally flick or pump their tail, it is not a consistent behavior. The Sargents reported to us that they have never observed a Black-chinned hovering for more than a few seconds without displaying this vigorous and rapid tail pumping. This hummingbird was also very vocal at the feeder but this behavior may have been influenced by our presence. It did

not hesitate to feed with a human observer close by and would chatter a lot between drinks. The vocalizations were a one- or two-syllable “tick” call similar to that of a Ruby-throat but somewhat softer in tone.

Fortunately the hummingbird did spend a good deal of time perched near the top of a Flowering Dogwood tree (*Cornus florida*) directly out (at eye level) from the elevated deck where the feeder was hung. It spent most of its time waiting for winged insects that it could “flycatch” from its high, open perch. Therefore we were able to clearly and leisurely observe and note its physical characteristics with binoculars.

This bird would also perch while feeding, and from these views we were able to easily determine that its folded wings were about as long as its tail. In contrast, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird’s tail extends well beyond the wing tips. Also, whereas a Ruby-throated has primaries that are pointed at the tips from the outer webbing on the feathers being significantly narrower than the inner webbing, the outer primaries on this bird had webbing which was more symmetrical, thus producing a wing tip that looked rounded. These two field marks, wing to tail length and outer primary shape, together are considered the most reliable field marks that distinguish Black-chinned from Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (Sargent and Sargent 1999).

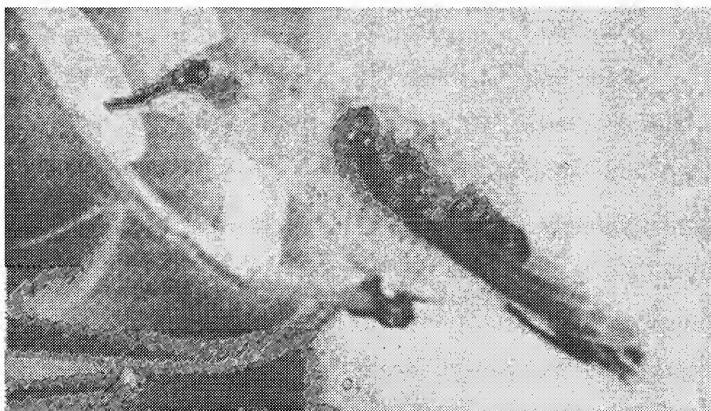


Figure 1. Perched bird showing relative wing to tail length and outer primary shape. Note the recently molted (darker) inner primary wing feathers. Photo by John Gerwin.

The bird’s bill was noticeably long but virtually straight. According to Bob Sargent (pers. comm.), not all Black-chinned Hummingbirds have bills that appear slightly curved. Likewise, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds can have curved bills as well. Therefore bill shape is not a dependable field mark for separating the species unless combined with other characteristics typical of Ruby-throated or Black-chinned Hummingbirds.

The color of the dorsal surface of the bird was a different shade of green from that of either an immature or adult Ruby-throated. It was a dull, washed-out color. Scattered iridescent feathering extended into the bird’s shoulders but not beyond. The nape was a grayish green, completely lacking in iridescence. The crown and forehead were a dull gray-brown and of a

different shape than that of a Ruby-throat. The head looked “flattened” and this effect was further accentuated by the low angle at which the bill intersected the face. These characteristics are all consistent with the identification of a female Black-chinned Hummingbird (Pyle 1997). In addition, the shafts of the primaries and secondaries, which were visible on the drooped wing at rest, had a rufous cast. This coloration is typical of older worn feathers. A young bird would have much darker flight feathers, giving us some indication that this was probably an adult female.

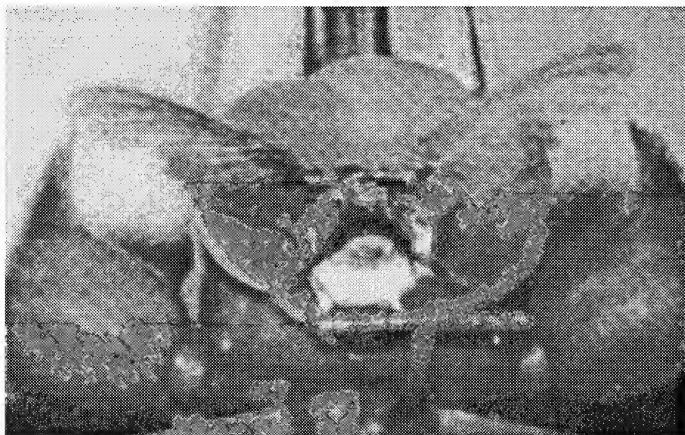


Figure 2. Black-chinned Hummingbird. With the wings spread, the characteristic rounded outer primaries are visible. Photo by John Gerwin.

We also noticed that the ventral surface of the hummingbird was markedly different from that of a female Ruby-throated. The belly was a dingy shade of white and the chest was even darker gray-white. The bird also exhibited small white tufts or “snowballs” from its flanks between the trailing edge of its wings and back as it perched with wings slightly drooped, as is typical for a Black-chinned (Sargent and Sargent 1999).

This note provides details for the second confirmed record of Black-chinned Hummingbird in North Carolina. This record was one of three accepted by the North Carolina Bird Records Committee (LeGrand et al. 2002) in 2001. There have been a number of reports of Black-chinned Hummingbirds in recent years, but the species has been a challenge to document. In November of 1994 Derb Carter observed an immature male in New Hanover County (LeGrand et al. 1997), the first documented record. The field identification of any out-of-range (or out-of-season) *Archilochus* is difficult. Indeed, Kaufman (1990) concludes: “For all practical purposes, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is identical to the Black-chinned except in adult male plumage. There are some slight differences that may help the observer to detect the possible presence of either species out of range, but such identifications can be no more than tentative unless the birds are mistnetted for examination in the hand.” We only add that decent photos and/or sound recordings can also be conclusive.

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First Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) Banded in North Carolina

Susan Campbell

*North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, 11 W. Jones St.,
Raleigh, NC 27603-1740*

Black-chinned Hummingbirds (*Archilochus alexandri*) breed in the western United States in a variety of habitats, from riparian forests to desert washes and urban gardens. They can be found from south-central Mexico into west Texas, throughout New Mexico, in most of Arizona and Colorado, in Utah, Nevada and Idaho as well as portions of California, Oregon and Washington and extreme southern British Columbia (Williamson 2001). Despite the fact that most individuals winter along the southwestern Pacific coast of Mexico, this species has been documented in the southeastern U.S. during fall and winter. Although it can be fairly common along the Gulf coast, few have been reported further north and east to date.

During the fall of 1999, Paulette Biles contacted me about an odd *Archilochus*-type hummingbird that had been coming to her feeders in Hampstead, Pender Co., North Carolina, since about November 11. She felt the bird was noticeably different from her usual Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*), and she thought it might be a female Black-chinned Hummingbird. I made visits to her yard in attempts to catch and band this hummer, once each in November and December, with no success. However, noting for myself the bird's short-tailed appearance, its dull greenish-gray crown feathering, gray-green upper parts, slightly decurved bill and frequent tail pumping, I was fairly confident that it was indeed a Black-chinned. This hummingbird also had gray streaking in the throat (about 30%), a white breast and a buffy wash along its flanks – all typical of a female of the species (Pyle 1997).

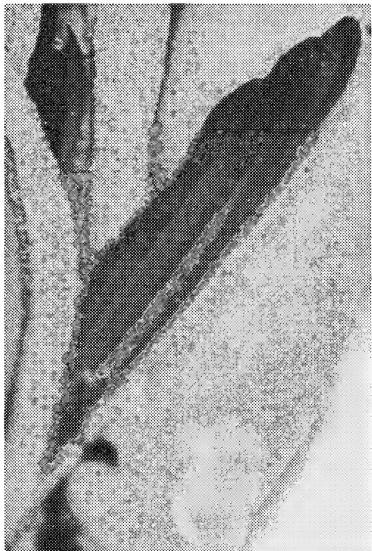


Figure 1. Black-chinned Hummingbird wing. Photo by Paulette Biles.

Further inspection of the hummingbird revealed she had a noticeable fat layer and was in heavy molt. There were pin feathers replacing heavily worn plumage on the head, belly, upper tail coverts, tail and wings. Unfortunately I had to release her due to signs of stress so I was unable to measure the culmen, look for bill corrugations (for evidence of age), or determine her weight.

This represents the third accepted record of this species in North Carolina (LeGrand et al. 2002) and the first identified by in-hand examination. The first record was of a young male seen at a feeder on Figure Eight Island in November of 1994 that was substantiated by extensive written details. The second was a female seen by the author and others at a feeder in Raleigh during the winter of 1997 and documented with photographs and sound recordings (Campbell and Gerwin 2006). Given the similarity of this species to Ruby-throated Hummingbird, which also occurs coastally during the winter in North Carolina, this record further substantiates the occurrence of the species in the state.

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Finally, on the cold morning of January 15, 2000, at 8:20 AM on my third attempt, I was successful at trapping this unusual hummingbird. Using a Russell trap, I rapidly captured and banded it. After a close inspection of the bird's plumage, including its tenth (outer) primary, I confirmed that it was an immature female Black-chinned Hummingbird. The shape of the wing tip had a blunt and rounded look due to the characteristic shape of the outer primary. It had a wide (0.55 mm) inner web, making it noticeably truncate (Fig. 1). The long wing and short tail measurements (46.13 mm and 26.0 mm, respectively) in conjunction with the plain throat supported the identification of the bird as a female.

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

Ricky Davis
608 Smallwood Drive
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
RJDNC@aol.com

(All dates Fall 2005, unless otherwise noted)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter	December 1–February 28	due March 20
Spring	March 1–May 31	due June 20
Summer	June 1–July 31	due August 20
Fall	August 1–November 30	due December 20

Reports can be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you type them and list the sightings according to the birds in checklist order (not according to dates or locations). If you submit your report to me through e-mail, please type your report directly into the message or copy it from a word processing program directly into the message. You may also attach your file to the e-mail, but if you do, please let me know the program used and also send a second version saved as a text (.txt) file.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: This species was once again present in south-coastal South Carolina. They were at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County all season, with the peak count being 47 on 19 Nov (Steve Calver).

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK: Only one was reported from the Carolinas this fall, that being at the Savannah Spoil Site 14 Aug (Steve Calver).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: This fall's reports involved one at Pea Is. NWR, NC 16 Oct (Skip Morgan, Jim Danzenbaker, et al.) and one at Table Rock St. Pk., SC 25–29 Nov (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, Scott Stegenga).

SNOW GOOSE: Several noteworthy sightings for the mountains included four (two white, two blue) in Henderson County, NC 27 Nov (Bev Hudson) and six (two white, four blue) at Deer L., Transylvania County, NC 28 Nov (Tom Joyce et al.).

BRANT: A group of five Brant was at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC 11–13 Oct (Doug Shadwick; sev. obs.). Not only were these birds quite early for our area, they represented only about the fourth inland sighting for North Carolina.

EURASIAN WIGEON: Only one Eurasian Wigeon was reported this fall, that being a male at the usual North Pond, Pea Is., NC area 23 Oct (Ricky Davis).

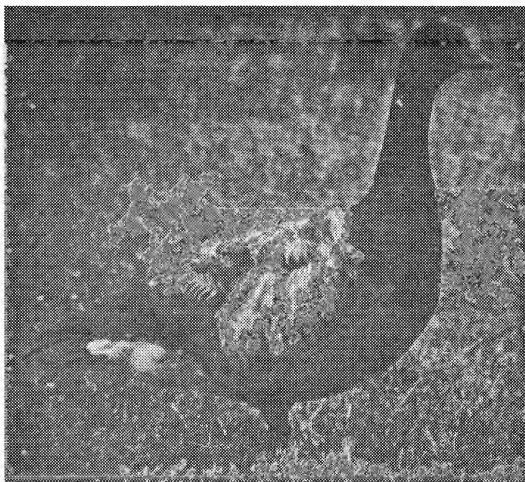
MOTTLED DUCK: A Mottled Duck was a good find at a rain pool at Ft. Fisher, NC 15 Oct, as noted by Greg Massey. This was the third report of this species from North Carolina during 2005, the first being two birds at two different sites in Onslow County during May. As the South Carolina population continues to increase, more Mottleds can be expected to show up in North Carolina.

COMMON EIDER: An immature Common Eider at the Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC jetty 19 Nov (Jack Peachey et al.) was a good find, but not unexpected, as this site is the best for finding the species in the state.

SURF SCOTER: A male Surf at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 22 Nov (Connie Ward, Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff) was the only inland scoter reported this fall.

COMMON MERGANSER: A male was unexpected on a lake southeast of Rhems, Williamsburg County, SC 25 Nov, as noted by Dennis Forsythe.

RED-THROATED LOON: One was unusual on a small pond near the Tidewater Research Station, Roper, Washington County, NC 23 Nov (Don Rote). This was the only inland migrant Red-throated reported this fall.



Brant at L. Crabtree, Oct 2005. Photo by Will Cook.

PACIFIC LOON: This species has become practically annual in North Carolina the last several years. This fall's report was of one in the ocean at Kill Devil Hills, NC 23 Nov (Keith Camburn).

EARED GREBE: Numbers of reports of this grebe were down somewhat this fall. Two were back at the usual Goldsboro, NC WTP site by 1 Oct (Eric Dean), and one was back at the Jacksonville, NC WTP 5 Nov (Andy Webb et al.). One was at the Hemingway WTP, Williamsburg County, SC 25 Nov (Dennis Forsythe) and one was at Bulls Is., SC 26 Nov (Nathan Dias).

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: The peak count off North Carolina this fall was the excellent total of 340 out of Hatteras 21 Aug (Brian Patteson Inc.)

FEA'S PETREL: One was a good find for the fall season off Hatteras, NC 21 Aug (Brian Patteson Inc.).

HURRICANE OPHELIA BIRDS: Hurricane Ophelia slowly moved up the North Carolina coast 13–15 Sep and brought a substantial number of birds to central and northern coastal areas. On 16 Sep Brian Patteson noted 30+ Cory's Shearwaters, one Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, and three Bridled Terns on Pamlico Sound in the Hatteras area. On 17 Sep Ricky Davis stationed himself on the Pea Is. end of the Bonner Bridge at Oregon Inlet. During several hours of observation he counted three Black-capped Petrels, 140 Cory's Shearwaters, one Greater Shearwater, one Manx Shearwater, five Audubon's Shearwaters, six Wilson's Storm-Petrels, one Sabine's Gull, and three Bridled Terns. The juvenile Sabine's Gull was watched as it flew southward along the Pea Is. shore. On 18 Sep John Fussell et al. found one Wilson's Storm-Petrel in Back Sound in the C. Lookout area. Of interest were the Cory's Shearwaters at Oregon Inlet. The birds were obviously resting and feeding inside the bridge at the inlet. They definitely would not go past the bridge and out the inlet to the ocean until several days or more had passed. This group of Cory's remained for several weeks with numbers peaking at 190 on 21 Sep (Paul Sykes) and then slowly decreasing until the last one was seen 2 Oct (Davis). One wonders why the birds would not go over the bridge until some time later.

MANX SHEARWATER: One was a good find out of Oregon Inlet, NC 27 Aug (Brian Patteson Inc.), providing yet another early-fall report for this species in North Carolina waters.

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: The rare and always exciting White-faced Storm-Petrel was found off Manteo, NC 14 Aug (Brian Patteson Inc.) for the only report this year.

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: One out of Charleston, SC 20 Aug (Nathan Dias et al.) was a good find for that state, where the species is harder to find than in North Carolina.

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: This species was noted only once this fall with two being found out of Oregon Inlet, NC 27 Aug (Brian Patteson Inc.).

MASKED BOOBY: Only one was noted this season, that being off Manteo, NC 13 Aug (Brian Patteson Inc.).

NORTHERN GANNET: Four sub-adults were rather early, as seen from Pea Is., NC 21 Sep (Paul Sykes).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: This species continues to be found in the Carolinas in good numbers. This fall's more interesting reports involved nine on 4 Oct and 17 on 26 Nov at Bulls Is., SC (Nathan Dias et al.), good numbers at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC most of the fall with a peak of 115 on 22 Oct (Steve Calver), a flock at Pea Is., NC during Oct and Nov with a peak of 36 on 12 Nov (Ricky Davis, sev. obs.), three flying southwest over Southport, NC 30 Oct (John Ennis), and 25 at Savannah NWR., SC 19 Nov (Carroll Richard).

ANHINGA: Noteworthy inland fall sightings included singles at Goldsboro, NC 16 Oct (Bruce Young, Rick Payne), at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC 28 Oct (Dwayne Martin), and Newport, NC 25 Nov (*fide* John Fussell). Unfortunately, the latter bird was picked up sick and taken to a shelter where it died.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: This species was found in the Carolinas in November in unprecedented numbers. It was felt that these birds were returning southward from the Maritimes where they were deposited by Hurricane Wilma, which moved up off the Atlantic seaboard the previous week. Reports involved one at C. Hatteras 3 Nov (Pat and Neal Moore et al.), at least six different individuals (five adult males, one female) from the C. Hatteras area up to Pea Is. 5 Nov (Marcia Lyons, Eric Dean et al., Jeff Pippen, Will Cook, Lex Glover, Ricky Davis, Taylor Piephoff, Jeff Lewis et al., John Fussell, Henry & Elizabeth Link, sev. obs.), one at C. Lookout 5 Nov (*fide* Piephoff), one at Ocracoke Inlet 5 Nov (Ken Wilkens), one at Nags Head 6 Nov (Pippen), one near Rodanthe 12 Nov (Margie Pitcher), one at Nags Head 13 Nov (Alan Kneidel, Haven Wiley et al.), one at S. Litchfield Beach, SC 14 Nov (Bob Maxwell), one at Pea Is. 16 Nov (Ruth Pfeffer), and two at N. Topsail Beach (Connie Shertz) with one of these at nearby Emerald Isle 28 Nov (*fide* Fussell).

AMERICAN BITTERN: One was a good find for the mountains at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 28 Nov (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe).

REDDISH EGRET: This species was reported frequently from both states again. In North Carolina, one was seen flying over Bodie Is. Lighthouse pond 1 Aug (Alan Kneidel), one was at Sunset Beach 6–8 Aug (Ricky Davis, Diane Hahn), up to three were at Shackleford Banks 26 Aug (Dennis Chadwick), a rarely-noted white phase bird was at Pea Is. 4 Sep (Davis, Jeff Lewis) until 28 Sep (Pat & Neal Moore et al.), one was still at Shackleford Banks 1 Oct (Bob Holmes et al.), and five to six were roosting at L. Medcalf, Sunset Beach in early Oct (Hahn, Mark Oberle, Mary McDavit). In South Carolina two were on Seabrook Is. during Aug and early Sep (Jim Edwards), one was at Kiawah Is. 3 Sep (Thomas McNeil et al.), one was at Huntington Beach St. Pk. 4 Sep (McNeil et al.) until at least 23 Oct (Stephen Thomas), several were at Bulls Is. during the fall with at least seven during the early season and one still there as late as 12 Nov (Nathan Dias et al.), one was at Waites Is. 9 Sep (Chris Hill), one was at Morris Is., Charleston County 1 Oct

(Lex Glover et al.), and three (including one white phase) were at Hilton Head Is. 3 Oct (Tim White).

CATTLE EGRET: A most impressive total of 1000 Cattle Egrets was had in the Open Grounds–North River Farms area of Carteret County, NC 11 Sep (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Carol Reigle). One wonders if these birds were congregating in response to Hurricane Ophelia to the south.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: A good inland report involved the five found at Jordan L., NC 17 Sep (Doug Shadwick, Jacob Socolar).

GLOSSY IBIS: Noteworthy inland sightings included 19 at the Tidewater Research Farm near Roper, Washington County, NC 4–13 Aug (Don Rote) and one at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 6 Aug (Steven Tracey, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: This species was present during the fall at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC with a peak of 21 on 4 Sep (Steve Calver). Elsewhere up to six were on Bulls Is., SC during Sep (Nathan Dias et al.) and one was observed in flight at the Caw Caw Center, Charleston, SC 14 Sep (Perry Nugent, Chris Davies).

WOOD STORK: The best count of the summering storks at Sunset Beach, NC was the 102 on 6 Aug, as noted by Ricky Davis. Elsewhere 31 at Colliers, Edgefield County, SC 17 Sep (Lex Glover, Jason Giovannone) was a good number for that location and date.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: The only fall migrant reported this season was the one at Caesar's Head St. Pk., SC 29 Sep (*fide* Jeff Catlin).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK: An immature was an excellent find at Beaufort, NC 18 Oct (Rich Boyd), as very few individuals of this species migrate south along the coast each fall.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK: One at Roan Mt. NC 18 Sep (Rick Knight) was unusual for that location and elevation.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: Only one was found in North Carolina this fall, that being a dark-morph bird flying north at Pea Is. 24 Nov (Keith Camburn).

GOLDEN EAGLE: This season's reports of Golden Eagle involved singles over Caesar's Head St. Pk., SC 27 Sep and 11 Nov (Jeff Catlin et al.), at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 30 Sep (*fide* Nathan Dias), over Daniel Is., Charleston, SC 30 Oct (Dias), near McClellanville, SC 23 Nov (Dias et al.), and at Southport, NC 17 Oct (Tom Vaught, *fide* Greg Massey).

AMERICAN KESTREL: An encouraging count of 21 was had at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 18 Sep (John Fussell et al.).

MERLIN: Two at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 8 Oct (Wayne Forsythe) were good local finds. One was somewhat early at Lockwood's Folly Inlet, Brunswick County, NC 27 Aug (Sam Cooper), while 10 at C. Lookout, NC 18 Sep (John Fussell et al.) provided a good one-day total.

BLACK RAIL: Noteworthy fall reports included one seen at Bodie Is. Lighthouse pond, NC 5 Nov (Brian Bockhahn) and one heard at North River, Carteret County, NC 30 Nov (John Fussell).

VIRGINIA RAIL: One was seen at a pond edge in Transylvania County, NC 15 Sep (*fide* Norma Siebenheller) providing a good local sighting for the mountains.

PURPLE GALLINULE: North Carolina reports of Purple Gallinule are becoming rare, thus of note was the adult with two juveniles at Osprey L., Sunset Beach, NC during late Aug to mid-Sep (Jo O'Keefe).

AMERICAN COOT: The summering pair of coots at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC was last noted 13 Aug (Ricky Davis). Much more of a surprise was the coot 35 miles offshore of Hatteras, NC 16 Oct (Brian Patteson et al.).

LIMPKIN: One was present along Cane Creek, a tributary of the Catawba River, in Lancaster County, SC 7 Aug (Bill Stoker) until at least early Oct (*fide* Bill Hilton, Jr.). This bird provided the first Piedmont record of this very rare species in the Carolinas.

SANDHILL CRANE: Mountain-area sightings included three east of Weaverville, NC 13 Oct (*fide* Charlotte Goedsche) and 10 over Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC 23 Nov (Lou Weber). The latter group provided a good count for the Carolinas and was obviously a migrating group somewhat east of the normal fall route over Georgia. Coastal reports included two near Williston, Carteret County, NC 20–27 Oct (Bob Austin, *fide* John Fussell), one flying over New Hanover County near Wilmington, NC 26 Nov (Sam Cooper), four at Ft. Macon 26 Nov (Randy Newman), probably the same four at North River Farms 27 Nov (Fussell), and two over Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 30 Nov (Steve Compton).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: Inland reports of this plover came from two locations in North Carolina this fall. At Hooper Lane, Henderson County a good count of 11 was noted 30 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff) and one was there 7 Oct (John Lindfors, Forsythe). At Falls L. with its extensive mudflats due to drought conditions, the species was present for much of the fall. One showed up 27–28 Aug (Steve Shultz et al., Ricky Davis) and numbers increased until six were noted 18 Sep (Shultz). One was also found as late as 13 Nov, as noted by Davis.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: This species was reported rather frequently again this fall. The Falls L. mudflats harbored one to two on 27–28 Aug (Steve Shultz et al., Ricky Davis), two on 11 Sep (Mike Skakuj), three on 13 Sep (Cynthia Fox), and one on 25 Sep (Davis). A good count of 17 was had between two sites in Sumter County, SC during the first half of Sep (Lloyd Moon). The Orangeburg, SC sod farm also had multiple birds with five on 25 Sep (Lex Glover), 12 on 5 Nov, and one still present 20 Nov (Tim Kalbach). In the mountains, several were found at Hooper Lane, NC 6 Oct (Jon Smith). Coastal reports included two at C. Hatteras point, NC 18 Sep (Pat & Neal Moore, Davis), four at North River Farms, NC 18 Sep (John Fussell et al.), and singles at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 14 Aug and 17 Sep (Steve Calver).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER: Good counts of this species were had inland with the best coming from Falls L. with 57 on 11 Sep (Mike Skakuj). In the

mountains, five+ were at Hooper Lane, NC 30 Aug (Bob Olthoff, Wayne Forsythe).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: The species lingered at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC later than usual this season. They were present all fall with at least three being seen as late as 26 Nov, as noted by Steve Calver. Also one was late and unusual at the L. Landing impoundments at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 19–20 Nov (Wake Audubon; Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas).

AMERICAN AVOCET: Rare inland sightings included one at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 27 Aug (Ricky Davis, Eric Dean, sev. obs.) until at least 5 Oct (Dean) and one near the mountains at L. James, NC 7 Aug (Jonathan Mays, Scott & Terry Bosworth). Near the coast, locally unusual sightings involved four at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 12 Aug (Phil & Sharon Turner), one at a sod farm in Jasper County, SC 14 Oct (Dennis Forsythe), and one on Bulls Is., SC 12 Nov (Nathan Dias et al.).

WILLET: Two were good finds at the Tidewater Research Station, Roper, NC 16 Aug (Don Rote). Falls L. had two on 13–14 Aug (Ricky Davis, Steve Shultz) and one 20–25 Aug (Shultz, Dave Lenat, Mike Skakuj).

UPLAND SANDPIPER: Reports of this species seemed slightly down this fall. The best count reported was 21 at North River Farms, NC 7 Aug (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Carol Reigle). Other good totals were the 10 at the Bucksport, Horry County, SC sod farm 25 Aug (Jack Peachey), seven at the Wilmington, NC airport 5 Aug (John Ennis), and six at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 7 Aug (Tim Kalbach). Others included singles at the Tidewater Research Station, Roper, NC 1 and 11–13 Aug (Don Rote), one near Coats, Harnett County, NC 21 Aug (Steve Shultz), at Falls L., NC 2 Sep (Dave Lenat), and in Sumter County, SC in early Sep (Lloyd Moon).



Upland Sandpiper at Wilmington airport, 5 Aug 2005. Photo by John Ennis.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: Multiple Long-billeds were present at C. Romain NWR, SC this fall with as many as seven being found several times (Nathan Dias). Also, multiple birds were present in the Shackleford Banks, Carteret County, NC area this fall with three being found 5 Nov (Dennis Chadwick, *fide* John Fussell).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: The only report this fall was of one to two at North Pond, Pea Is., NC 25 Aug–5 Sep (Skip Morgan et al., Lex Glover, Ricky Davis, Jeff Lewis).

MARBLED GODWIT: One at Falls L., NC 13 Aug (Ricky Davis) provided a rare inland sighting of this species.

RUDDY TURNSTONE: Single turnstones were reported at Falls L., NC 13 and 28 Aug (Ricky Davis), 4 Sep (Steve Shultz et al.), 13 Sep (Dan Kaplan), and 18 Sep (Mike Skakuj).

RED KNOT: Rare sightings away from the immediate coast included one at Falls L., NC 25–28 Aug (Dave Lenat, Mike Skakuj; Ricky Davis) and one in fields(!) at North River Farms, NC 16–23 Oct (John Fussell et al.).

SANDERLING: The number of inland reports was about average this fall. The Falls L., NC area hosted good numbers with the first being found 13 Aug (Ricky Davis) and peaking at 30 on 27 Sep (Dave Lenat). Up to seven were at Jordan L., NC 23 Sep (Steve Shultz) and one was in the mountains at Hooper Lane, NC 30 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff).

WESTERN SANDPIPER: The best inland fall sightings involved 15 at Falls L., NC 13 Aug (Ricky Davis), 16 there 11 Sep (Mike Skakuj), and three at Jordan L., NC 17 Sep (Steve Shultz).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: This species was reported inland less frequently than in the last several years. The only ones noted were three at Falls L., NC 13 Aug (Ricky Davis) and one there 18 Sep (Steve Shultz).

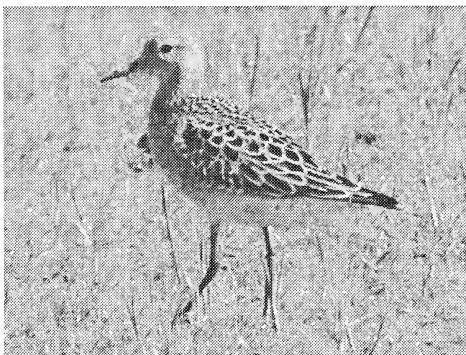
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: The Falls L., NC mudflats hosted good numbers of this sandpiper this season. Singles were present 13 Aug (Ricky Davis), 1–3 Sep (Dave Lenat, Steve Shultz), 18 Sep (Shultz), and 26 Sep (Dave Lenat). Two were there 4 Sep (Shultz) and 11–13 Sep (Mike Skakuj, Cynthia Fox et al.), while three were found 27 Aug (Shultz et al.). Elsewhere in North Carolina, one was at Hooper Lane 30 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff) and one was at North River Farms 25 Sep (John Fussell et al.).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: The best counts received of this shorebird involved 100 at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 6 Aug (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman), 228 at Falls L., NC 4 Sep (Steve Shultz), and 500+ in a flock flying past Oregon Inlet, NC 17 Sep (Ricky Davis). One was also late inland at Falls L. on 13 Nov, as noted by Davis.

DUNLIN: One was rather early inland at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 7 Aug (Tim Kalbach). The peak count at Falls L., NC was 21 on 13 Nov (Ricky Davis).

STILT SANDPIPER: This species was present at Falls L., NC during the fall with the peak count being 31 on 18 Sep (Mike Skakuj). At Jordan L., NC 12 was a good count on 17 Sep (Doug Shadwick, Jacob Socolar). The best total from the Orangeburg, SC sod farm was 12 on 6 Aug (Steven Tracey). Eleven were at Hooper Lane, NC 30 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff), providing a good count for that mountain locality.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: Buff-breasted reports were about average compared to the last several years. The Stedman, Cumberland County, NC sod farm had one 21 Aug (Steve Shultz) and six there 25–27 Aug (Dave Lenat, Ricky Davis). The Falls L., NC mudflats hosted good numbers, with five on 27 Aug (Shultz), six on 2 Sep (Lenat), 18 on 4 Sep (Shultz et al.), two on 11 Sep (Mike Skakuj), one on 13 Sep (Dan Kaplan), and two on 27 Sep (Lenat). One was a good find in New Hanover County, NC 17 Sep (Sam Cooper, sev. obs.). The Orangeburg, SC sod farm hosted six on 28 Aug (Judy Walker et al.) and one on 25 Sep (Lex Glover). And, finally, 18 were seen at two sites in Sumter County, SC during the first half of Sep (Lloyd Moon).



Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Falls Lake, 3 Sep 2005. Photo by Steve Shultz.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: This species was present at Falls L., NC during the fall with the peak count reported being 57 on 20–27 Aug (Steve Shultz et al.). Elsewhere two were at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC 13 Aug (Ricky Davis) and two were at Hooper Lane, NC 30 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: Rare inland Long-billed reports included 15 at the Tidewater Research Station, Roper, NC 15 Aug (Don Rote) and one at Falls L., NC 18 Sep (Steve Shultz).

WILSON'S SNIPE: An impressive congregation of snipes was the 300+ in the North River, Carteret County, NC marshes 30 Nov, as noted by John Fussell.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: This fall's Wilson's reports involved one at Falls L., NC 28 Aug (Ricky Davis), one at Hooper Lane, NC 30 Aug (Jon & Glenda Smith), one at Falls L. 18 Sep (Mike Skakuj), two at Pea Is., NC 3 Sep (Davis, Jeff Lewis), one at Pea Is. 21 Sep (Paul Sykes), and multiples at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC during the fall with the peak count being nine on 4 Sep (Steve Calver).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: Rare onshore sightings included one at Pea Is., NC 4 Sep (Ricky Davis, Jeff Lewis) and singles at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 27 Aug, 10 Sep, and 14 Oct (Steve Calver).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: One was found out of Oregon Inlet, NC 27 Aug (Brian Patteson Inc.). Numbers were down considerably this year, with this bird being only the third reported all year off North Carolina.

POMARINE JAEGER: One was just off Pea Is., NC 4 Nov (Ricky Davis), providing a good onshore sighting.

PARASITIC JAEGER: One off Charleston, SC 13 Aug (Nathan Dias et al.) was a good offshore sighting and a bit early. Onshore sightings included

one over the White Oak River, Carteret County, NC 15 Sep (Jamie Cameron) after Hurricane Ophelia, one at Folly Beach, SC 2 Oct (Dias et al.) and one at Rodanthe, NC 2 Nov (Ricky Davis).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: An adult Long-tailed at L. Hartwell, GA 4–12 Sep was seen in SC waters 5 Sep (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, Lex Glover, sev. obs.) and provided one of only a handful of reports for that state.

LAUGHING GULL: Noteworthy inland sightings included one at Falls L., NC 27 Aug (Steve Shultz et al.), one adult at the Ecusta ponds, Transylvania County, NC 5 Sep (Tom Joyce, Betty McIlwain), two immatures there 12 Sep (Joyce), and one on L. Norman, NC 18 Sep (David Wright et al.).

FRANKLIN'S GULL: A first-winter bird was an excellent find at the Georgetown, SC WTP 22 Nov (Melissa Whitmire), providing the only report for the fall.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: Another good gull find was the adult Black-headed at the eastern end of Ocean Isle Beach, NC 24 Nov, as noted by Taylor Piephoff. Also a Black-headed at the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway 30 Oct was most certainly the same individual noted there the past several years (Peggy Eubank).

BONAPARTE'S GULL: Fifteen at the Ecusta ponds near Brevard, NC 22 Nov (Tom Joyce) were considered locally unusual.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: This species continues to return to the Carolinas earlier and in ever-increasing numbers. This fall two were at Waites Is., SC 13 Aug (Chris Hill et al.) and an impressive count of 18 was had at C. Hatteras point, NC 14 Aug (Pat & Neal Moore). Of interest was that the C. Hatteras flock consisted of several juvenile-plumaged individuals.

CASPIAN TERN: The best inland migrant counts involved the 28 at Falls L., NC 28 Aug (Ricky Davis) and the 13 at L. Norman, NC 18 Sep (David Wright et al.). Also of note were several mountain sightings including three at L. James, NC 7 Aug (Jonathan Mays, Scott & Terry Bosworth) and one at Hooper Lane, NC 30 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff) after Hurricane Katrina.

SANDWICH TERN: Three at C. Hatteras, NC 24 Nov (Keith Camburn) were somewhat late for that locality.

FORSTER'S TERN: Noteworthy inland reports included nine at Falls L., NC 28 Aug (Ricky Davis), one in Transylvania County, NC 31 Aug (Tom Joyce, Norma Siebenheller), five at Jordan L., NC 17 Sep (Steve Shultz), and three at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC 12 Oct (Jeff Pippen, Will Cook).

BRIDLED TERN: The best count from South Carolina offshore waters was of 26 off Charleston 20 Aug (Nathan Dias et al.). In North Carolina 12 provided a good count off Currituck Beach 2 Sep (Tyler Bell) in an area of ocean that is not surveyed as much as areas out of Oregon Inlet and Hatteras Inlet.

SOOTY TERN: Peak counts from South Carolina included nine off Charleston 13 Aug and 13 out of Charleston 17 Sep (Nathan Dias et al.),

while the peak North Carolina count was 68 out of Oregon Inlet 27 Aug (Brian Patteson Inc.).

BLACK TERN: There were fewer reports of this species inland this fall, compared to the last several years. Of note were seven at Falls L., NC 14 Aug (Steve Shultz) and eight at Hooper Lane, NC 30 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff).

BROWN NODDY: Very rarely noted in the Carolinas, Brown Noddies made news in South Carolina this fall. One immature was off Charleston 13 Aug and four (three imm., one ad.) were seen out of Charleston 17 Sep (Nathan Dias et al.). The latter sighting represented one of the highest counts in the Carolinas.

ROCK PIGEON: One at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 11 Sep (Rick Knight) was not only locally unusual but also rare at that elevation.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: Another report from the mountains was of the three at Butler Bridge Rd., Henderson County, NC 28 Nov (Wayne Forsythe), which provided just the second sighting for that county.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: This species continues to be found practically every season each year. This fall's reports involved one at Raleigh, NC 29 Sep (Jim Seaman), one at Mt. Pleasant, SC 28 Oct (Craig Richard), two at Ocracoke, NC 6 Nov (Susse Wright, Ricky Davis), one at Frisco, NC 22 Nov (Pat Moore), and one at Atlantic Beach, NC 27 Nov (Tammy Lester).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE: Encouraging were the inner Coastal Plain sightings of one near Hilda, Barnwell County, SC 27 Oct (Robin Carter) and two at Oaklea WMA, Clarendon County, SC 25 Oct (Lex Glover).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: Sightings of this often hard-to-see cuckoo included one at Cold Mt. overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway, NC 17 Sep (Bob Olthoff), one at Jackson Park, NC 25 Sep (Wayne Forsythe), one at Hospital Fields, Transylvania County, NC 25 Sep (Betty McIlwain), one at Jackson Park 12 Oct (Ben & Carol Ringer), and one at Pea Is., NC 15 Oct (Ricky Davis).

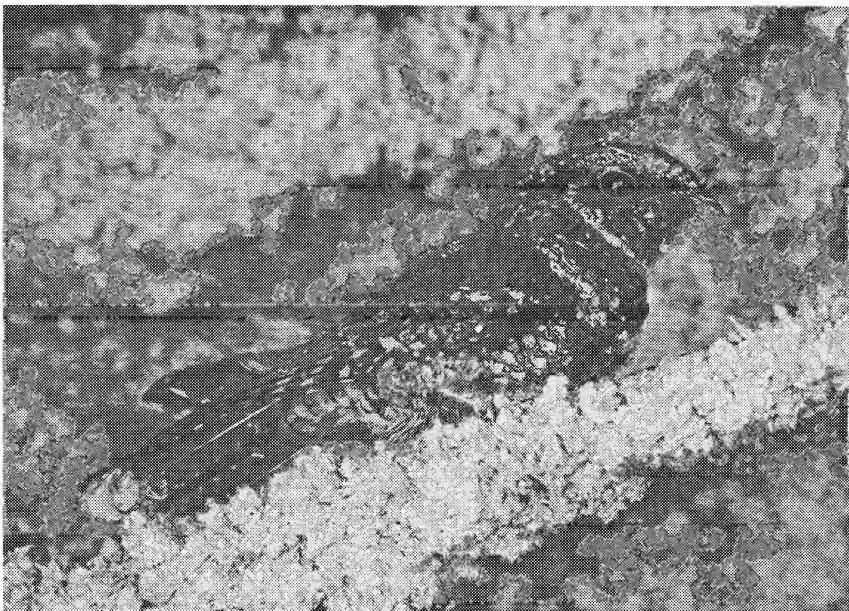
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: One was rather late at Duke Forest, Orange County, NC 9 Nov, as noted by Will Cook.

BURROWING OWL: One was found dead in Charlotte, NC 25 Oct (Betty O'Leary, *fide* Judy Walker). This is not long after one was seen for several days in Asheville, NC during the late spring. One wonders if this was the same bird, and just how are these owls getting up into the Carolinas – naturally or assisted by man?

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: A late goatsucker was the Chuck found out of normal habitat, roosting in a building at Carteret Community College, Morehead City, NC in mid-Oct (Nate Bacheler).

WHIP-POOR-WILL: One heard at Glen Cannon, Transylvania County, NC 27 Oct (Norma Siebenheller) was extremely late for that mountain locality.

CHIMNEY SWIFT: Quite late were the six swifts seen near Columbia, Tyrrell County, NC 1 Nov, by Will Cook.



Chuck-will's-widow at Carteret Community College 17 Oct 2005. Photo by Nathan Bachelier.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: Olive-sides are always noteworthy in the Carolinas, and this season singles were at Cowan's Ford Refuge, Mecklenburg County, NC 17 Aug (John Bonestell), at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 4 Sep (Nathan Dias), along Corinth Rd., Chatham County, NC 17 Sep (Jeff Pippen), and at Black Mountain, NC 21 Sep (Stu Gibeau).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE: One was very late in the Bodie Island, NC Lighthouse area 5 Nov (Brian Bockhahn). One wonders if this individual was studied closely enough to rule out the equally possible (at this time of year) Western Wood-Pewee.

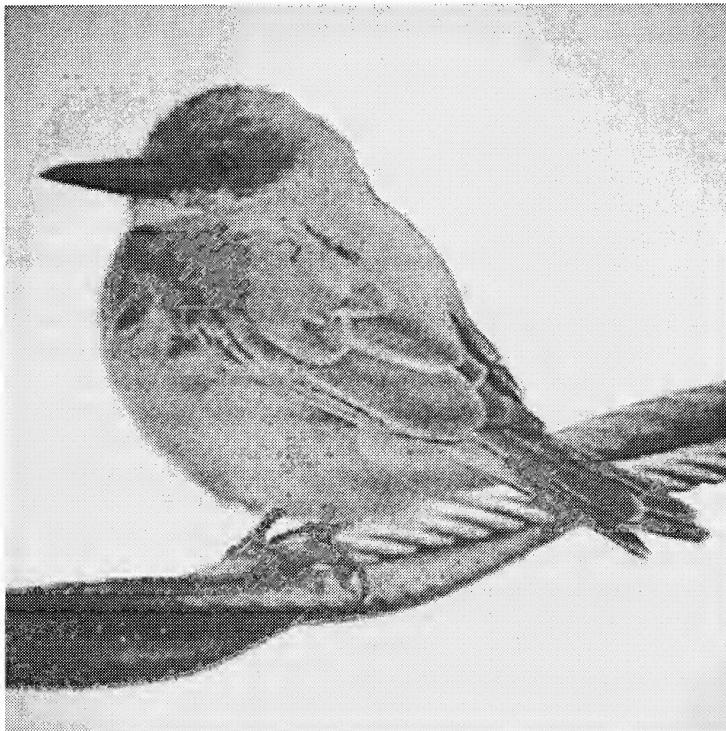
YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: This species was well-reported again this fall. Up to two were at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 4–5 Sep (Nathan Dias, Bill Dobbins), and singles were banded at Ft. Jackson, Richland County, SC 15 and 22 Sep (Lex Glover). Single Yellow-bellieds were at Ft. Fisher, NC 16 Sep (Greg Massey), in Chatham County, NC 17 Sep (Jeff Pippen), at Gastonia, NC 25 Sep (Steve Tracey), along the Edisto River, Dorchester County, SC 25 Sep (Glover), near Asheville, NC 28 Sep (Dwayne Martin et al.), at Patriot's Pt., SC 30 Sep (Dias et al.), and at Jackson Park, NC 2 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey).

ALDER FLYCATCHER: Alder Flycatcher was reported twice, with one calling along Buckhorn Rd., Chatham County, NC 17 Sep (Jeff Pippen) and two vocalizing at Patriot's Pt., SC 29 Sep (Nathan Dias).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: Birds identified as Willows included one at Leland, Brunswick County, NC 4 Sep (Greg Massey), one in southern Chatham County, NC 17 Sep (Jeff Pippen), one at Falls L., NC 18 Sep (Mike

Skakuj), one on Roanoke Island, NC 22 Sep (Jeff Lewis), and one at Patriot's Pt., SC 29 Sep (Nathan Dias).

LEAST FLYCATCHER: This fall's Least Flycatcher reports involved singles at Patriot's Pt., SC 2 Sep (Bill Dobbins, *fide* Nathan Dias), in Duke Forest, Durham, NC 13 Sep (Jacob Socolar), at Ft. Fisher, NC 16 Sep (Greg Massey), on Roanoke Island, NC 16 Sep (Jeff Lewis), and at Pea Is., NC 21 Sep (Paul Sykes).



Tropical Kingbird near L. Phelps 27 Nov 2005. Photo by Jeff Lewis

TROPICAL KINGBIRD: North Carolina's third identified Tropical Kingbird was found along the road to L. Phelps, Washington County, 19 Nov (Ricky Davis, Don Rote; sev. obs.). The bird stayed in the vicinity of the grain elevator on into the winter season. The bird's call, heard by several different observers, and photos ruled out the very similar Couch's, which has yet to be recorded in the Carolinas.

WESTERN KINGBIRD: Reports of this annual fall visitor were down this year. The only ones reported involved singles at Folly Beach, SC 23 Oct (Billy McCord, *fide* Dennis Forsythe), at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 23 Oct (John Fussell et al.), and at Alligator River NWR, NC 20 Nov (Curtis Smalling et al.) and remaining until at least 1 Dec (Dave Lenat).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: There were only two reports of this annual visitor this fall. One was along I-20, 25 miles west of Florence, SC 22

Aug (Jack Dozier et al.) and another was along NC 94, one mile north of the Intracoastal Waterway bridge in Tyrrell County, NC 26 Sep (*fide* Taylor Piephoff).

WARBLING VIREO: Rare fall sightings included single birds at Punchbowl Landing Rd., Horry County, SC 16 Sep (Jack Peachey) and at Broad River WMA, Fairfield County, SC 18 Sep (Tim Kalbach).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: The number of reports of this migrant was about average for the fall season, although several observers felt there were more individuals than usual. The best counts included three at Jackson Park, NC 29 Sep (Wayne Forsythe) and two on Roanoke Is., NC 30 Sep (Jeff Lewis). The earliest was at Leland, Brunswick County, NC 4 Sep (Greg Massey), while the latest was at Kiawah Is., SC 1 Oct (Nathan Dias et al.).

COMMON RAVEN: Common Ravens continued to be found in the Triangle area of North Carolina. One was in southeast Raleigh 1 Aug (Clyde Sorenson), one was at Terrell's Mt., Chatham County 4 Sep (Fred Houk), one was in the Research Triangle Park 5 Sep (Ricky Davis), one was near Chapel Hill 22 Oct (Kent Fiala), two were in Orange County 9 Nov (Ginger Travis), and five to six were in Durham 21 Nov (Diana Davis). Elsewhere one was still present (since the summer) in the Greenville, NC area until at least 14 Oct (Veronica Pantelidis), and two were along US 64 southwest of Lenoir in Caldwell County, NC 26 Oct (Dwayne Martin).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: One was very late at Ocean Isle Beach, NC 24 Nov, as noted by Taylor Piephoff.

CLIFF SWALLOW: Of interest was the large congregation of over 600 Cliffs in Sumter County, SC 12 Aug (Lloyd Moon). Also one was very late at Daniel Is., SC 30 Oct, as noted by Nathan Dias.

CAVE SWALLOW: This species has been found in the Carolinas during the late fall to winter period for several years now. This fall's reports involved one at Santee NWR, SC 29 Oct (Tim Kalbach), two in the C. Hatteras, NC area 4–5 Nov (Eric Dean et al., Jeff Lewis et al., sev. obs.), one to two at Oregon Inlet, NC 4 Nov (John Fussell et al.), three at Oregon Inlet 5 Nov (Ricky Davis et al.), two at Salvo, NC 5 Nov (Davis), two at Ocean Isle Beach, NC 24 Nov (Taylor Piephoff), three at Kill Devil Hills, NC 25 Nov (Keith Camburn), and two at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 30 Nov–1 Dec (Jack Peachey, Steve Compton).

BARN SWALLOW: Two were rather late at Ocean Isle Beach, NC 24 Nov (Taylor Piephoff).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Red-breasteds were mentioned very infrequently this fall. The earliest ones were the two at Durham, NC 7 Sep (Rick Payne).

SEDGE WREN: One was extremely early in the mountains near the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC 13 Aug (Marilyn Westphal, Wayne Forsythe). Other noteworthy mountain sightings included three to four at Ivestor Gap, Shining Rock Wilderness, NC 7 Oct (Jonathan Mays et al.) and one at Jackson Park, NC 30 Oct (Ron Selvey) and 12 Nov (Simon Thompson).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: One at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC 3 Sep (Dwayne Martin) was very early.

WOOD THRUSH: One Wood Thrush was very tardy in Orange County, NC 16 Nov, as noted by Ginger Travis.

GRAY CATBIRD: This species is one of the more common fall migrants in the Carolinas. This was evidenced during mid-October when over 750 were seen moving along a shrub line at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC on 16 Oct (John Fussell et al.). Large numbers were also moving on the Outer Banks that weekend when, on 15 Oct, along a five mile stretch of NC 12 at Rodanthe, a minimum of 20 were found dead on the road and five others were picked up stunned (Ricky Davis).

AMERICAN PIPIT: Several early reports from the mountains were of five at Purchase Knob, Great Smoky Mts., NC 17 Sep (Jonathan Mays, Ellen Robertson) and three at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 22 Sep (Rick Knight).

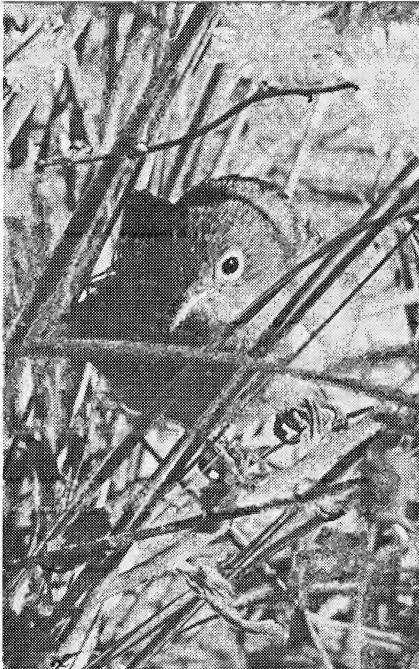
BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: Three Blue-wingeds provided an excellent count for the coast at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 4 Sep (Nathan Dias et al.).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: Another species that is less common toward the coast is the Golden-winged, thus of note were one to two at Carolina Beach St. Pk., NC 27 Sep (Greg Massey).

TENNESSEE WARBLER: Noteworthy reports of this warbler involved one early at Asheville, NC 23 Aug (Simon Thompson) and two being locally uncommon at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 22 Oct (Steve Calver).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: This species becomes harder to find in fall as one moves away from the mountains toward the coast. This fall's noteworthy coastal reports included one at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29 Sep (Nathan Dias), one at Manteo, NC 11 Oct (Jeff Lewis), one at Pea Is., NC 17–23 Oct (Jeff Lewis, sev. obs.; Ricky Davis), and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 22 Oct (Steve Calver).

YELLOW WARBLER: Good numbers of this early fall migrant included an excellent one-day count of 168 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 20 Aug (Steve Calver). Also a count of 12 at North River Farms, NC 25 Sep (John Fussell et al.) was very good for that late in the season. One was very late in the



Nashville Warbler at Pea Is. 18 Oct 2005.
Photo by Jeff Lewis.

Darlington, Halifax County, NC area 26–28 Nov (Frank, Elisa, & Mary Enders).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: One was rather late for an inland location in Orange County, NC 9–16 Nov, as noted by Ginger Travis.

PALM WARBLER: One was quite early along the southern Blue Ridge Parkway at Cherry Cove Overlook 28 Aug (Marilyn Westphal). This warbler migrates through the Carolinas very commonly, but the 500+ moving along a shrub line at North River Farms, NC 23 Oct (John Fussell et al.) must have been an impressive sight.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: One at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 22 Sep (Rick Knight) was a good find for the mountains where the species is hard to find during the fall migration.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: One was rather late at Buxton, NC 15 Oct (George Armistead), as this species is usually gone from the Carolinas by mid-September.

WORM-EATING WARBLER: Rather late were singles at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29 Oct (Nathan Dias) and near Roper, Washington County, NC 30 Oct (Don Rote).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: One at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC 11 Sep (Patrick Murphy) was considered to be locally unusual as a fall migrant.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: One 55 miles off Charleston, SC 13 Aug (Nathan Dias et al.) was early, while one at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 29 Nov (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas) was rather late.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: One at Mt. Mitchell St. Pk., NC 11 Sep (John Lindfors) was locally unusual, especially at that elevation.

MOURNING WARBLER: There were two reports of this rare fall migrant. One was at Jackson Park, NC 9 Oct (Wayne Forsythe) while one was at the coast at Myrtle Beach St. Pk., SC 17 Oct (Jack Peachey, Bob Maxwell). Surprisingly, no Connecticut Warblers were mentioned this fall!

HOODED WARBLER: One at Congaree Nat. Park, Richland County, SC 28 Oct (Robin Carter) was very late for the Carolinas.

WILSON'S WARBLER: Noteworthy late Wilson's were the singles at New Bern, NC 6 Nov (Al Gamache) and at North River Farms, NC 13 Nov (John Fussell et al.).

CANADA WARBLER: One at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 10 Sep (Steve Calver) provided a good sighting along the coast where they can be hard to find.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: The number of reports of this fall migrant was down this year. The only reports received involved one very early at North River Farms, NC 4 Sep (John Fussell et al.), several in the Ft. Fisher, NC area 15–17 Oct (Greg Massey), two at Pea Is., NC 17–19 Oct (Jeff Lewis), three at North River Farms, NC 23 Oct (Fussell et al.), one at Daniel Is., SC 30 Oct (Nathan Dias), and one at North River Farms, NC 13 Nov (Fussell et al.).

VESPER SPARROW: Noteworthy reports of this declining species included one rather early in southern Alligator River NWR, NC 2 Oct (Will

Cook, Jeff Pippen, Harry LeGrand) and an encouraging total of 44 at Daniel Is., SC 13 Nov (Nathan Dias).

LARK SPARROW: This fall's sightings of Lark Sparrow involved an impressive count of seven at Pea Is., NC 4 Sep (Jeff Lewis, Ricky Davis), two at Ft. Fisher, NC 16 Sep and one there 15 Oct (Greg Massey).

SAVANNAH SPARROW: Several observers commented on the lack of Savannah Sparrows in many areas this fall. Thus of note was the huge concentration of 1400+ at Daniel Is., SC 30 Oct, as noted by Nathan Dias.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Fall migrant Grasshopper Sparrows were not reported well this year at all. One was a good find at North River Farms, NC 13 Nov (John Fussell et al.).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: The hard-to-locate Le Conte's was noted twice this fall with singles at New Bern, NC 31 Oct (Al Gamache) and at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 26 Nov (Steve Calver).

SONG SPARROW: Daniel Is., SC also hosted huge numbers of this common sparrow 30 Oct when 2500+ were estimated by Nathan Dias.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: Reports of this elusive sparrow seemed to be up this fall. The best counts were three at Jackson Park, NC 30 Oct (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe, John Lindfors) and two near Asheville, NC 1 Oct (Marilyn Westphal). Other mountain area sightings included one at Jackson Park, NC 19–21 Oct (Ron Selvey, John Lindfors), one at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 3 Oct (Rick Knight), and one in the Mills River, Henderson County, NC area 6 Nov (Westphal). Coastal reports involved singles at Ft. Fisher, NC 15 Oct (Greg Massey), at Pea Is., NC 16 Oct (Ricky Davis), at the L. Landing area of L. Mattamuskeet, NC 30 Oct (Davis) and 20 Nov (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas), and at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 26 Nov (Steve Calver). Elsewhere single Lincoln's were found at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC 17 Oct (John Sneeden), in northern Edgecombe County, NC 30 Oct (Davis), and at Bahama, Durham County, NC 24 Nov (Tom Krakauer et al.).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Only two reports of Lapland Longspur were received this fall. One was a good find at Veteran's Park south of Wilmington in New Hanover County, NC 29 Oct (Sam Cooper), and two were with pipits in fields west of L. Phelps, NC 19 Nov (Ricky Davis).

INDIGO BUNTING: Noteworthy late Indigo Buntings were found at Etowah, Henderson County, NC 13 Nov (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), at Manteo, NC 23 Nov (Jeff Lewis), and at the Conway, SC WTP 28 Nov (Jack Peachey). The Henderson County individual was extremely late for that mountain locality, where the species almost never lingers into the winter.

PAINTED BUNTING: Late Painteds were of note at Manteo, NC 31 Oct (Jeff Lewis) and at Morehead City, NC 27 Nov (John Fussell). Much more interesting was the green Painted Bunting at Cowan's Ford Refuge, Mecklenburg County, NC 12 Sep (Taylor Piephoff). Records away from the immediate coast are very rare in North Carolina, and this individual was far to the west.

DICKCISSEL: The usual number of sightings of this species came from North Carolina this fall. Of particular interest was the juvenile found at North River Farms, Carteret County 27 Aug (John Fussell, Jack Fennell) where the species spent the summer in good numbers. Also at North River Farms singles were seen 11 Sep and 23 Oct, and two were there 16 Oct (Fussell et al.). Elsewhere one was at Pea Is. 16 Oct (Ricky Davis, Neal Moore et al.), two were at Pea Is. 23 Oct (Davis), one was on Roanoke Is. 15 Oct (Jeff Lewis), one was at a feeder in Wilmington 24 Nov (Mark Jones), and one was at Jackson Park 1–5 Nov (Ron Selvey, John Lindfors, Wayne Forsythe) providing a very rare late fall report for the western part of the state.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Only one of this annual fall visitor was mentioned this year, that being a male along the highway on the southern shore of L. Mattamuskeet, NC 30 Oct (Ricky Davis).

RED CROSSBILL: The five to seven Red Crossbills found at Bass L. near Blowing Rock, NC 29 Nov (Dwayne Martin) were the only ones reported this fall.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

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The Carolina Bird Club, Inc. is a non-profit educational and ornithological organization founded in 1937. Membership is open to all persons interested in the conservation, natural history, and study of wildlife with particular emphasis on birds. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club may be deductible from state and federal income and estate taxes. Dues are payable on an annual basis. Checks should be made payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Checks or correspondence regarding membership or change of address should be sent to the Headquarters Secretary at the address below. Dues include \$4 for a subscription to the *CBC Newsletter* and \$5 for a subscription to *The Chat*. Associate members do not receive a separate subscription.

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NC Vice-Presidents:	John Ennis, Leland, NC	swampwolf@thebusinessbirder.com
	Simon Thompson, Asheville, NC	travel@birdventures.com
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	Gail Larkford, Asheville, NC	whocooksforyou@charter.net
	Lori Martin, Maiden, NC	loriannkayaker@charter.net
	Ed Toone, Wilmington, NC	batest@att.net
SC Members-at-Large:	Steve Patterson, Lancaster, SC	SCBirdr@aol.com
	Bob Ellis, Columbia, SC	ellis29205@aol.com

EX-OFFICIO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chat Editor:	Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC	TheChat@carolinabirdclub.org
Newsletter Editor:	Karen Bearden, Raleigh, NC	Newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org
Immediate Past President:	Bob Wood, Ridgeway, SC	wood@rtt-law.com

HEADQUARTERS SECRETARY

Dana Harris, 6300 Creedmoor Road, STE 138 PMB 422, Raleigh, NC 27612-6744
hq@carolinabirdclub.org

Rare Bird Alert: (704) 332-BIRD

Web Site: carolinabirdclub.org



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Editor

Kent Fiala, 1714 Borland Road
Hillsborough, NC 27278
chat@carolinabirdclub.org

General Field Notes Editors

North Carolina

Will Cook

South Carolina

William Post

Briefs for the Files

Ricky Davis

Associate Editor

Ginger Travis

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2005 Annual Report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee

**Donna Slyce¹, Chair, Gifford Beaton, Jr., Nathan Dias, Lex
Glover, Chris Hill, Tim Kalbach, Taylor Piephoff, Will Post,
Steve Wagner**

¹ 304 Diamond Lane, Ridgeway, SC 29130

In 2005 the South Carolina Bird Records Committee completed action on 18 records. Of these, 11 were accepted, 4 were not accepted and 2 will be sent for outside review. One was withdrawn from consideration after circulation began. Among the few changes to the state list this year is a change in the review status of Cinnamon Teal and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. Both species were removed from Full review and placed in the Inland Only review category. Cinnamon Teal has established enough of a pattern of vagrancy along the immediate coast that sightings of the species there no longer need to be documented. Observations of Cinnamon Teal more than 30 miles inland should be reported to the Committee. Based on a published report of breeding activity of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck as well as several anecdotal reports of breeding by the species along the immediate coast, sightings of the species along the immediate coast no longer need to be reported. Sightings of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck more than 30 miles inland, however, should continue to be reported to the Committee.

Committee membership increased in 2005. Following guidelines established by the by-laws of the Committee and the precedent of protocols used the last time the South Carolina Bird Records Committee changed its number, the number of the Committee was increased from seven members to nine members. In addition to the seven members of the Committee from 2004 – Giff Beaton, Jr., Lex Glover, Tim Kalbach, Taylor Piephoff, Dr. Will Post, Donna Slyce, and Dr. Steve Wagner – the two new members are Nathan Dias from Charleston and Dr. Chris Hill from Conway. I would like to reiterate my thanks to the other members of the Committee for their input and guidance on this and to the Board of the Carolina Bird Club for their time and consideration on this issue.

In 2005, the Records Committee held its annual meeting on 2 October in Charleston, South Carolina. Items on the agenda for this meeting included a review of the review categories of several species, a consideration of the question of having both Skua sp. and South Polar Skua on the state list, and a discussion of the discrepancies between birds reported for *North American Birds* and bird records submitted to the Committee or written up in “General Field Notes” in *The Chat*. All but two of the species were left in their current review categories. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and Cinnamon Teal were both changed from Full to Inland Only review status as described above. On the question of the Skua sp./South Polar Skua on the state list, the Committee agreed to review older (previously unreviewed by the

Committee) documentation of the report that placed South Polar Skua in the Hypothetical category on Post and Gauthreaux's 1989 state list, the state list that was grandfathered in when the Records Committee was formed in 1991. The discussion of the discrepancies between records submitted to the Records Committee and what is reported to North American Birds culminated in a decision to have the chair work with the Regional Editor of North American Birds in order perhaps to secure necessary write-ups for the Records Committee or write-ups for General Field Notes.

The current state list stands at 449 species, with 15 Provisional II species and 14 Hypothetical species. The most recent revision of the state list can be found online at <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/brc>. The state list available online includes review categories in addition to list categories for each species.

Committee decisions on individual reports are summarized below.

Accepted reports

King Eider (02-05-05) – Several good digital photographs of an immature male of this species were submitted to the Committee by Dwayne Martin. This bird was observed by many at Folly Beach in late January–early February of 2005. The report was accepted.

Masked Booby (09-04-09) – Jack Peachey reported a bird of this species observed offshore from Murrell's Inlet in September 2004. The report was accepted.

Limpkin (08-05-14) – An excellent video of the bird present along Cane Creek in Lancaster County from early August through late August 2005 was submitted by Bill Stokes. The report was accepted. This is the first documented occurrence of Limpkin in the Piedmont area of the state.

Dovekie (02-05-07) – Also part of the alcid invasion that took place at Huntington Beach State Park in early 2005, this species was not seen by nearly as many observers as several other species in the invasion. Nonetheless, the bird was present long enough to be documented with a written report and a digital photograph by Kent Fiala. The report was accepted by the Committee.

Common Murre (01-05-02) – A bird observed from shore at Garden City in January 2005 was written up by Jack Peachey. The report was accepted.

Thick-billed Murre (02-05-06) – An individual of this species was observed by many from late January through February at Huntington Beach State Park. Steven Tracey submitted several good digital photographs of the bird. The report was accepted.

Vermilion Flycatcher (05-04-07) - A report of a bird of this species observed in late May 2004 just outside the town of Lexington in Lexington County was accepted. The report was prepared by Donna Slyce and Lloyd Sharpe.

Blue-winged Warbler (07-05-13) – A written report of a Blue-winged Warbler observed on 28 July 2005 in a backyard in Conway was circulated

to the Committee due to the date, which was nearly two weeks prior to previous records of the species in the state. The report was accepted.

Yellow Warbler (01-05-03) – Molly Bonnell observed and documented a bird of this species present at the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge in mid-January 2005. Based on the written report, the record was accepted by the Committee.

Harris's Sparrow (03-05-09) – A written report of a bird observed at a feeder in the community of Piedmont, South Carolina, in Greenville County was accompanied by digital photographs. The report written by Pete Worthington and accompanied by digital photographs from Jeff Catlin was accepted.

Bullock's Oriole (12-04-10) – An excellent photograph of this species was submitted to the Committee by Dan Fleming. The bird was photographed visiting a backyard feeder in late December 2004 in central Anderson County. The record was accepted.

Non-accepted reports

Yellow-billed Loon (01-05-01) – A lack of diagnostic detail in this written report occasioned a vote of non-acceptance by the Committee.

Sabine's Gull (03-05-10) – Somewhat contradictory details in the description of this individual caused a vote of non-acceptance by the Committee.

Black-billed Magpie (05-05-11) – A sketchy report of an individual of this species was not accepted due to incomplete details in the written description to definitively identify the species.

White Wagtail (02-05-08) – A report of an individual of this species was not accepted due to incomplete details in the written description to definitively identify the species.

Reports sent for outside review

White-faced Ibis (01-03-12a and 01-03-12b) – The only reports to come in on the White-faced Ibis reported by many from Savannah National Wildlife Refuge in January of 2003 were too brief for several on the Committee and caused a split vote on these reports. The reports will be sent for outside review and circulated to the Committee a second time with reviewers' comments.

Varied Thrush (01-05-04) – The brevity of the description in this written report occasioned enough uncertainty to cause a split vote on this report. The record will be sent for outside review and circulated to the Committee a second time with reviewer's comments.



Worm-eating Warbler, 15 Apr 2006. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

General Field Notes

General Field Notes briefly report such items as rare sightings, unusual behaviors, significant nesting records, or summaries of such items.

First, second, or third sightings of species in either state must be submitted to the appropriate Bird Records Committee prior to publication in The Chat.

First Record of Anna's Hummingbird in North Carolina

Judith Walker¹ and Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.²

¹ 7639 Farm Gate Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215

² N.C. Natural Heritage Program, 1601 MSC, Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

An unusual hummingbird was discovered by Walker on Sunday, 29 November 1998, around 13:30, in her yard in Charlotte, NC. The weather was exceptionally warm (approximately 75°F), with a partly sunny sky. The bird was first discovered in an oak tree chasing kinglets, which were about the same size. It was then observed feeding on pineapple sage and hawking insects in the air.

On the day of discovery, Taylor Piephoff and David and Marsha Wright came to observe the bird and verify the identification as an Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*). Bob and Martha Sargent banded the bird on Monday, 14 December. They indicated that the bird, a male, was quite young because 70% of its bill was still corrugated.

The forehead was basically dark with one or two feathers on the crown that shone iridescent pink when the light hit them. The area of pink on the crown increased over the weeks the bird was present. The throat had a dark triangular gorget which appeared iridescent pink or fuchsia when the light hit it. Several dark feathers appeared along the side of the throat that had a pinkish cast to them in the light; this was assumed to be the side of the gorget beginning to come in. There were also many fine dark streakings above the gorget that eventually filled out and became part of the gorget. From a distance the bird exhibited a grayish collar beneath the gorget that extended up nearly to the nape. This is a characteristic mark of immature and female Anna's.

The bird's nape, back, and rump were basically green with a yellow iridescent overcast, which in certain light appeared a bit golden-colored. The bird's breast and belly were light gray with darker gray streaking. The flanks were also light gray with darker grayish/green streaking. The vent area was also light gray.

The tail feathers were darker than the rest of the body, but were not really black. The outer tail feathers had white on the tip, whereas the others were dark green. In the hand when banded, the bird was noted to have tail feathers that were very worn and to be beginning to molt. The wings were black and extended almost to the tail when the bird was sitting. There appeared to be a white patch at the wrist when it was sitting, and this patch became more noticeable over time. However, the patch appeared to be very "fuzzy" – more like body/contour feathers than secondary or primary wing feathers – and was probably only a by-product of the bird's molting into adult plumage.

The eye was dark. There appeared to be a faint partial eye ring over the top of the eye with a distinct white dot or patch behind the eye. On one side of the head, the eye-spot lengthened into a faint eyeline. The other side did not show the eyeline. The bill appeared thin, very straight, and pointed. It was completely black. In proportion to the bird it appeared neither short nor long to Walker. However, several observers commented that they thought the bill looked short.

The bird's vocalization was what caused Walker to discover it. It was a very high, persistent series of rattles, chips, and other notes. When she first heard it, she thought it sounded like begging of baby birds. It could also be likened to the rustle of leaves, the sound of a baby's rattle, or a rattlesnake. It was neither rhythmic nor did it exhibit any constant pattern like the Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) "song". The hummingbird had two chip notes. One was very high and faint, similar to that of a Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) or a Carolina Chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*) but not as robust. This chip note was given when the bird was sitting. A louder, more emphatic and harsher, series of chip notes was given when the bird was alarmed or defending its territory.

The habitat at Walker's suburban yard contains a variety of plantings designed to attract birds and other wildlife. The herb garden contained pineapple sage, on which the bird often fed. Many oak and sweetgum trees are present in and around the yard, and a number of evergreens are also available for roosting. The bird was partial to the oak trees and hydrangea, where it hawked insects. During its stay, it was seen at a feeder in a crabapple tree; hawking insects in the air, trees, bushes and leaf litter; feeding from sapsucker holes and flowering trees; and chasing a variety of birds from the yard.

The hummingbird was observed defending its territory from other birds. It was first seen chasing kinglets but also took on Yellow-rumped Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*), Carolina Chickadees, Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*), House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), Northern Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*), and Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*). Several observers watched the bird practice a display of some type.

Most of this activity was observed during unusually warm weather. When the weather cooled, the bird settled into a quieter routine. It seemed to associate with the insect-eating birds (the Carolina Wren and kinglets in particular). It seemed to have taken some clues from them as to where to find

insects once it got cooler. It did not appear to be dependent on the feeder except in the extreme cold weather. Instead, it spent much time hunting insects and frequenting the sapsucker holes. The bird was most regularly seen at the feeder early in the morning and then late in the afternoon. However, it was usually somewhere in the yard most of the day.

Over 120 people observed the bird during its long stay. It was seen daily until 4 March 1999. By that time it had developed most of the gorget, and the entire top of the head was fuchsia-colored.

This is the first record of Anna's Hummingbird for North Carolina. The North Carolina Bird Records Committee accepted a written description by Walker and photos taken of the bird in the hand by the Sargents. As a result of being documented by photographs, the species was placed on the Official List (North Carolina Bird Records Committee 2001). Anna's Hummingbird has not yet been reported from South Carolina (South Carolina Bird Records Committee 2004).

Literature Cited

- North Carolina Bird Records Committee. 2001. 1999–2000 Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee. *Chat* 65:83–89.
South Carolina Bird Records Committee. 2004. The South Carolina bird list. *Chat* 68:9–18.

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

Ricky Davis
608 Smallwood Drive
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
RJDNC@aol.com

(All dates Winter 2005–2006, unless otherwise noted)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter	December 1–February 28	due March 20
Spring	March 1–May 31	due June 20
Summer	June 1–July 31	due August 20
Fall	August 1–November 30	due December 20

Reports can be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you type them and list the sightings according to the birds in checklist order (not according to dates or locations). If you submit your report to me through e-mail, please type your report directly into the message or copy it from a word processing program directly into the message. You may also attach your file to the e-mail, but if you do, please let me know the program used and also send a second version saved as a text (.txt) file.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

*I rely in part on sightings reported in *Carolinabirds*. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from *Carolinabirds*. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.*

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

CORRIGENDUM: In the entry for Brown Noddy in Briefs for the Files for Fall 2005 (Chat 70:29), the report of four out of Charleston on 17 Sep was in error. Only one was seen, and it was in Georgia waters.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: There seemed to be more reports of this species this winter than usual. In North Carolina, one was on the Southern Pines CBC 18 Dec (Jeff Beane et al.), one was at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir 8–19 Feb (Dwayne Martin, sev. obs.), and two were at the Pungo

Unit, Pocosin Lakes NWR 9 Feb (Derb Carter). In South Carolina, one was at Santee NWR 9 Dec–6 Jan (Robin Carter, Paul Lehman, Caroline Eastman), two were there 4–26 Feb (Andy Harrison et al., Lex Glover), and one at Table Rock St. Pk. 25 Nov–13 Dec (Scott Stegenga) provided a first park record.

SNOW GOOSE: Numbers of this species continue to increase in the Carolinas. The Pettigrew St. Pk., NC CBC tallied 72,053 on 30 Dec (*fide* Lisa Williams) while the L. Mattamuskeet NWR, NC CBC had 18,000 counted 29 Dec (*fide* Allen Bryan). Good counts from the southern coastal area of South Carolina included 16 on the Savannah, GA CBC 1 Jan (*fide* Steve Calver) and nine on the ACE Basin, SC CBC 1 Jan (*fide* Pete Laurie). Some other sightings away from the coast included singles in the Winston-Salem, NC area 17 Dec (Royce Hough) and 2–25 Feb (Phil Dickinson, Cynthia Donaldson), one at the NCSU farm near Raleigh, NC Dec into Jan (sev. obs.), two on the Southern Pines, NC CBC 18 Dec (Jeff Beane et al.), and one near Conway, SC 7 Feb (Jack Peachey).

ROSS'S GOOSE: There were the usual handful of reports this winter including up to two at Santee NWR, SC 10 Dec until at least 26 Feb (Robin Carter, Paul Lehman, Tim Kalbach, Andy Harrison, Lex Glover), one in nw. Sumter County, SC 27 Jan (Lloyd Moon), one along NC 191 in Henderson County, NC 6 Jan (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal, Ron Selvey), and two to three at the Pungo Unit, Pocosin Lakes NWR, NC 13 Jan–9 Feb (Rich Boyd, Wade Fuller, Ricky Davis, Derb Carter).

CACKLING GOOSE: More sightings of this newly-recognized species were had this winter. One was at L.

Mattamuskeet, NC 11–17 Dec (Ricky Davis, Harry LeGrand, Jr.), three were there on the CBC 29 Dec (Will Cook), one was at the Pungo Unit, NC 4 Feb (Davis), two were at Bear Is. WMA, SC 5–6 Jan (Roger Smith, Dennis Forsythe, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, sev. obs.), and one was at Santee NWR, SC 26 Feb (Lex Glover). Expect more reports of this form, now that observers are looking through the Canada Goose flocks for them. All of this season's birds were of the *hutchinsi* form.



Ross's Goose in Henderson Co., NC, 6 Jan 2006. Photo by Wayne Forsythe.

MUTE SWAN: Two Mute Swans at L. Mattamuskeet NWR, NC 29 Dec–8 Jan (Jeff Lewis, Harry LeGrand, Jr., Jeff Pippen) and Bear Is. WMA, SC 6 Jan (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, sev. obs.) were in areas not previously noted.

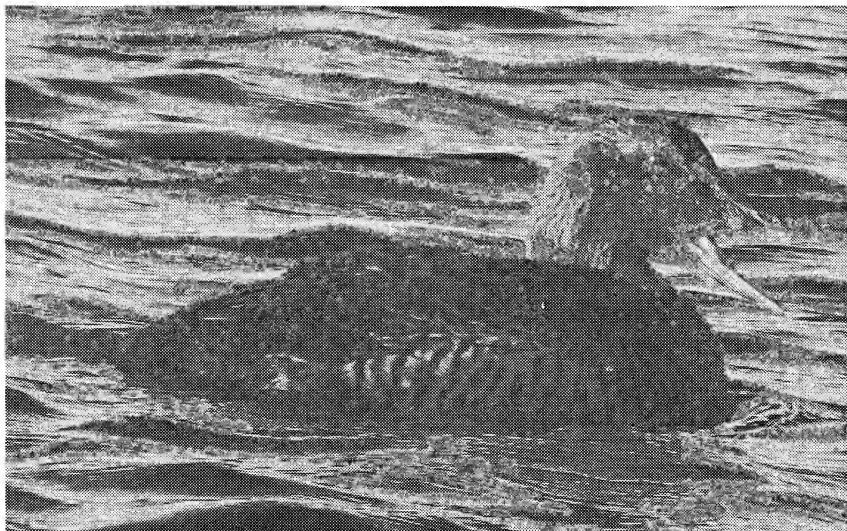
TUNDRA SWAN: Tundra Swan numbers are also increasing in the Carolinas. Good counts away from the usual e. NC wintering areas included 930 at Red Hill, Edgecombe County, NC 28 Jan (Ricky Davis) and 128 at Bear Is. WMA, SC 15 Jan (Russ Wigh, Steve Wagner, Tim Miller). Elsewhere a lone bird was somewhat unusual at Falls Lake, NC 12 Dec (Brian Bockhahn) and 1 Jan (Harry LeGrand, Jr.).

EURASIAN WIGEON: This winter's Eurasians, all males, were at Bodie Is., NC Lighthouse pond 28 Dec (*fide* Paul Sykes), at Greenfield L., Wilmington, NC 31 Dec (*fide* Sam Cooper), at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 16 Jan (Harry LeGrand, Jr., Jeff Pippen, Will Cook, Lex Glover), and at Bulls Is., SC 1 Jan (Nathan Dias et al.).

CANVASBACK: A female Canvasback at Ecusta pond, Transylvania County, NC 18 Feb (Betty McIlwain) was locally very unusual.

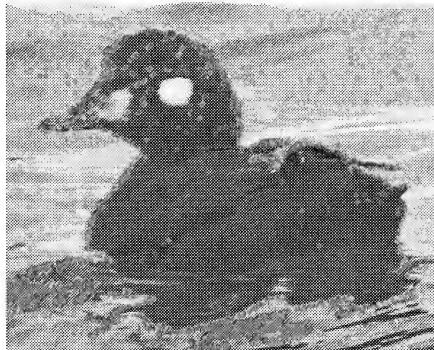
REDHEAD: This species often moves in good numbers in late winter and early spring. This season's best totals involved 54 at Deerlake, Transylvania County, NC in early Feb (Norma Siebenheller, sev. obs.) and 25 at the Dobbins Farm, Townville, SC 25 Feb (Sidney Gauthreaux, Jr.).

COMMON EIDER: Numbers were down this winter when compared to the last. In South Carolina, one was near a pier in Myrtle Beach 2 Dec (Ritch Lilly) and one was in the Murrell's Inlet jetty area 8 Dec (Robin Carter, Paul Lehman) until the spring season (sev. obs.). In North Carolina, a female was at Silver Lake, Ocracoke 30 Dec (Peter Vankevitch) and an imm. male was at Oregon Inlet 1–5 Jan (Jeff Lewis, Rick Knight).



Common Eider at Ocracoke, NC, 30 Dec 2005. Photo by Peter Vankevitch.

HARLEQUIN DUCK: The only reports came from South Carolina this winter, with an adult male at Myrtle Beach 17 Dec (Paul Lehman) until the first week of Jan (*fide* Nathan Dias) and an imm. male at the jetty, seen from Huntington Beach St. Pk. 7–15 Jan (Simon Thompson et al., Dias et al.).



Harlequin Duck at Huntington Beach St. Pk., 7 Jan 2006. Photo by Simon Thompson.

COMMON MERGANSER:

This season's Common Merganser sightings involved one at Falls L., NC 17 Dec–11 Jan (Brian Bockhahn), two on the Wayne

County, NC CBC 17 Dec (Eric Dean, Mary Bridges), one on the McClellanville, SC CBC 18 Dec (*fide* Nathan Dias), two on L. Norman, NC 28 Dec (David Wright), and one on Parr Res., Newberry County, SC 12–14 Feb (Tim Kalbach, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

RED-THROATED LOON: One on L. Norman, NC 23 Dec (David Wright et al.) was the only inland Red-throated reported this winter.

PACIFIC LOON: One was again found at Wrightsville Beach, NC 31 Dec (Derb Carter), with the usual Common Loon flock just off the beach.

HORNED GREBE: A good local count was the 11 on Salem L., Forsyth County, NC 6 Dec, as noted by Phil Dickinson and Susan Jones.

EARED GREBE: Eared Grebes were noted on the salt pond at C. Hatteras point this winter with one on 3 Dec (Eric & Celia Dean et al.), a peak of five on 27 Dec (Ricky Davis, sev. obs.), and at least two until 29 Jan (Haven Wiley et al.). Elsewhere one was in the ocean at Ft. Fisher, NC 1 Jan (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Harry Sell) and one was at the Jacksonville, NC WTP 3–10 Feb (Gilbert Grant).

MANX SHEARWATER: One was a good find, seen from the beach, as it flew close to the breakers at Nags Head, NC 5 Jan (Rick Knight). Another black and white shearwater, most likely a Manx, was seen flying north by Ft. Fisher, NC 21 Dec (John Ennis).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: Another increasing species in the Carolinas, American White Pelicans were noted at several coastal locations. In North Carolina, 21 were flying north at Topsail Beach 2 Dec (John Hardwick), 32 were at Pea Is. NWR 3 Dec (Ricky Davis), two were over a field south of L. Mattamuskeet 17 Dec (Harry LeGrand, Jr.), five were seen on the Pettigrew St. Pk. CBC 30 Dec (*fide* Lisa Williams), the same or another five were at L. Mattamuskeet 8 Jan (LeGrand et al.), two were at L. Phelps 23 Jan (Don Rote), and up to 30 were at Drum Inlet, Carteret County 22 Jan (*fide* John Fussell). Reports from South Carolina included 19 over Huntington Beach St. Pk. 2 Dec (Phil Turner), five at C. Romain NWR 4 Dec (Nathan Dias et al.), 20 at Bulls Is. 1 Jan (Dias et al.), 11 flying south at

Pawleys Is. 17 Jan (Carole Jorgensen, Dave Lovett), 12 on the Savannah, GA CBC 1 Jan (*fide* Steve Calver), and 109 on the ACE Basin CBC 1 Jan (*fide* Pete Laurie).

GREAT CORMORANT: Locally uncommon were the single Greats found along the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway 4 Dec (Patrick Murphy) and at New Bern, NC 15 Dec (Wade Fuller).

ANHINGA: Two at Holt's L., Johnston County, NC 10 Dec (Clyde Sorenson) were very unusual winter records for the inner Coastal Plain.

CATTLE EGRET: This species winters in small numbers at a few locations in North Carolina. The best counts reported included 15 at L. Mattamuskeet 16 Jan (Harry LeGrand, Jr. et al.) and five near Belhaven, Beaufort County 13 Jan (Rich Boyd, Wade Fuller). Also one was a good find, seen flying over Buxton Woods, on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC 27 Dec (Paul Sykes et al.).

GREEN HERON: The northernmost wintering Green Herons were at New Bern, NC 15 Dec and 30 Jan (Al Gamache) and all winter at Pine Knoll Shores, Carteret County, NC (Ron Johnson, *fide* John Fussell).

GLOSSY IBIS: One was unusual on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC 27 Dec (Susan Campbell). Also a small flock wintered at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, with the peak count being 11 on the CBC there 29 Dec (*fide* Allen Bryan).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK: An immature Northern Goshawk was briefly observed in flight at Alligator River NWR, NC 20 Dec, as noted by Brad Carlson. The bird was not relocated later that day, so apparently was on the move.

"KRIDER'S" RED-TAILED HAWK: Two individuals of this mid-western form were located in South Carolina this winter. An adult was at the Savannah NWR 1 Jan (Steve Wagner, Kerry Nelson), while another was just north of Santee NWR in Clarendon County 1 Jan (Lloyd Moon). This form has been found in the Carolinas a little more frequently the last couple of years.

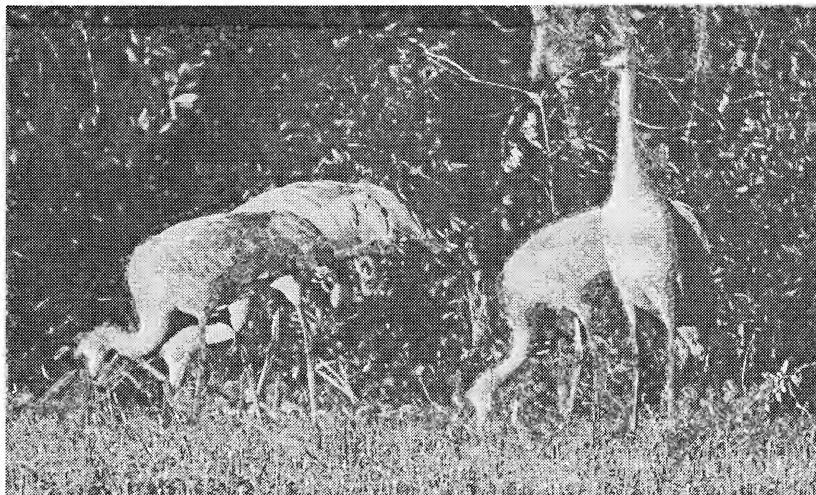
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: Only two reports were received of this rare-but-regular winter visitor. A light-phase adult was at the usual Alligator River NWR, NC area 10 Dec (Ricky Davis, Jeff Pippen, Harry LeGrand) and 6 Jan (Rick Knight). One was considerably more unusual in the Piedmont in western Orange County, NC 10 Dec (Doug Shadwick, Rob Rybczynski, Jane Binkley).

GOLDEN EAGLE: Always a good find in the Carolinas, this winter's reports included an immature on the Pettigrew St. Pk., NC CBC 30 Dec (Scott Hartley et al.), another or the same immature at Alligator River NWR, NC 1 and 7 Jan (Jeff Lewis), an adult at Alligator River NWR 16 Jan (Royce Hough et al.), and an adult at Stone Mt. St. Pk., NC 3 Feb (Eric Harrold).

MERLIN: Some noteworthy inland Merlin reports involved one at the Flat River Impoundment, Durham County, NC 4 Dec (Will Cook), one at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm 10 Dec (Paul Lehman), one on the Jordan L, NC CBC 1 Jan (*fide* Norm Budnitz), one in southern Moore County, NC 7-8 Jan (Jeff Beane), one at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 8 Jan (Wayne

Forsythe), and another or the same along the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC 21 Feb (Marilyn Westphal).

SANDHILL CRANE: The number of sightings of this species continues to increase each winter. The best totals reported were the 35 on the Clemson, SC CBC 17 Dec (Sidney Gauthreaux, Jr. et al.), seven at Santee NWR, SC 31 Dec (*fide* Lex Glover) and 4 Feb (Andy Harrison et al.), six in two flocks of four and two in the Beaufort–North River area of Carteret County, NC during the winter (John Fussell, sev. obs.), six on the ACE Basin, SC CBC 1 Jan (*fide* Pete Laurie), four in Jones County, NC 12 Dec (Clancy Ballenger), and three at the Pungo Unit, Pocosin Lakes NWR, NC 29 Jan (Ricky Davis). Also two were on the Pettigrew St. Pk., NC CBC 30 Dec (Scott Hartley et al.), two were associating with some captive cranes in early Dec near Spring Hope, NC (*fide* John Connors), one was just north of Pollocksville, Jones County, NC in early Dec (Jim Parnell, Jamie Cameron), and one was over Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 7 Dec (Ron Selvey).



Sandhill Cranes in Beaufort, NC, 28 Jan 2006. Photo by Holly Powell.

WILSON'S PLOVER: There were only two winter reports of this shorebird in North Carolina this season. One was at Ft. Caswell 1 Jan (Taylor Piephoff), while another was at Bird Shoal, Carteret County 1–3 Feb (John Fussell).

PIPING PLOVER: The best winter total reported in North Carolina was the 18 at Bird Shoal 1 Feb, as noted by John Fussell.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: This species lingered much later than usual this year. At the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC several remained through the fall and two were last noted on 15 Dec (Steve Calver, Paul Lehman); stilts normally have left the Carolinas by November.

AMERICAN AVOCET: Locally unusual avocets included the one at the southern end of Onslow Beach, NC 31 Dec (Andy Webb) and two in the Gloucester area of Carteret County, NC 30 Jan (*fide* John Fussell).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: Inland Spotteds included one on the Wayne County, NC CBC 17 Dec (John Fussell, Tommy Wade), one at Cane Creek Park, Union County, NC 8 Dec (John Buckman et al.), and one at Barnardsville, Buncombe County, NC late Dec to late Jan (Kevin Caldwell). The latter bird provided a very unusual report for the mountains during winter.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: The Cape Romain NWR, SC area hosted a good number this winter, with the peak count being seven during Jan (Nathan Dias et al.).

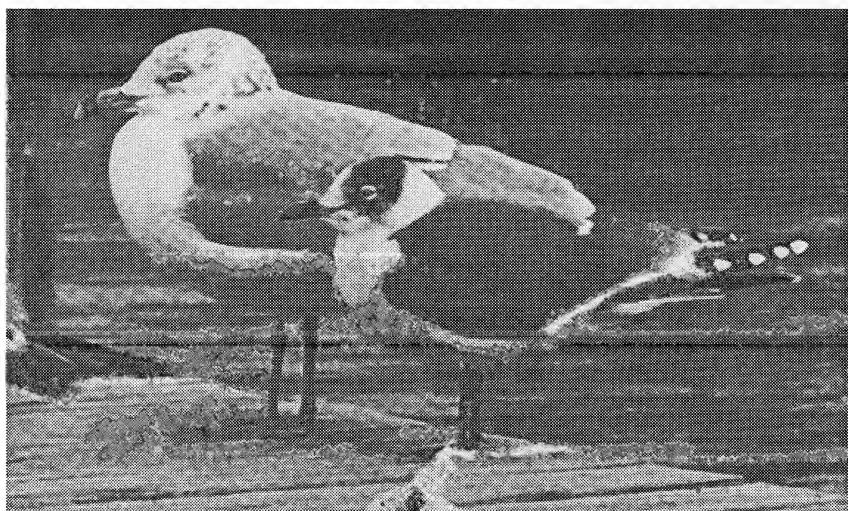
STILT SANDPIPER: The very rare-in-winter and local Stilt Sandpiper was reported twice, with single birds at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC in late Dec (Steve Calver) and in Colleton County, SC 25 Feb (Nathan Dias).

RUFF: Very rare for the winter was a Ruff in Colleton County, SC 25 Feb, as noted by Nathan Dias. There are only a handful of winter records for the Carolinas, and this individual was most likely an early spring migrant, not a wintering bird.

PARASITIC JAEGER: Onshore sightings included two at Bulls Island, SC 1 Jan (Nathan Dias et al.), one at Carolina Beach, NC 31 Dec (Ricky Davis), and possibly the same individual to the south at Ft. Fisher, NC the following day (Davis).

LAUGHING GULL: Good inland reports came from Falls Lake, NC with one on 3 Dec and two on 12 Dec, as noted by Brian Bockhahn.

FRANKLIN'S GULL: Very rare and unusual was the second-year Franklin's Gull which remained in the Manns Harbor, Dare County, NC area 14 Dec–15 Jan (Jeff Lewis, m. obs., Doug Shadwick et al.). The bird was last reported several miles to the southeast in the Oregon Inlet area 19 Jan (Dave Lenat). The length of stay for this bird was unprecedented for the Carolinas.



Franklin's Gull at Manns Harbor, NC, 14 Dec 2005. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: This winter's Black-headed Gulls included the returning L. Mattamuskeet, NC bird along the causeway 11 Dec (Ricky Davis) until at least 16 Jan (*fide* Royce Hough), one at the Jacksonville, NC WTP 3–24 Feb (Gilbert Grant, Jim O'Donnell et al.), and one at the Georgetown, SC WTP 12 Feb (J. B. Hines et al.).

THAYER'S GULL: Only one was noted this winter, that being an adult inland at the Raleigh, NC landfill 11 Feb (Derb Carter).

WHITE-WINGED GULLS: White-winged gulls were few and far between this winter. Iceland Gull reports included two different immatures at Mason Inlet, NC 31 Dec–1 Jan (Derb Carter) and another immature at the Raleigh, NC landfill 11–17 Feb (Carter, Clyde Sorenson). The only Glaucous Gull noted was a first-winter bird at C. Hatteras, NC 15 Jan (Royce Hough et al.).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Good inland Lesser reports from North Carolina involved two on the Wayne County CBC 17 Dec (Clyde & Anna Sorenson), one at Falls Lake 18 Dec (Doug Shadwick et al.) and 2 Jan (Steve Shultz), one on the Southern L. Norman CBC 18 Dec (Taylor Piephoff), and four adults at the Raleigh landfill 11 Feb (Derb Carter).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: The best inland totals reported were the three at Sandling Beach, Falls Lake, NC 8 Jan (Brian Bockhahn) and the three at the Raleigh, NC landfill 18 Feb (Doug Pratt, Sterling Southern).

THICK-BILLED MURRE: One was once again in the Murrell's Inlet, SC area, being reported on the Litchfield–Pawleys Is. CBC 29 Dec (*fide* Jack Peachey), and from the Garden City side on 15 Feb (Evelyn Dabbs, Tom Mowbray). Two were also reported in the surf at Nags Head, NC 11 Feb (Peggy Opengari, Virginia Soc. Ornithology field trip, *fide* Will Cook).

RAZORBILL: Alcid numbers were way down this winter and the only Razorbill sightings involved one flying south past C. Hatteras, NC point 27 Dec (Ricky Davis) and two in the surf at Masonboro Is., New Hanover County, NC 31 Dec (John Fussell, Jack Fennell).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: This species continues to increase at several localities in the western portions of the Carolinas. A good count of 24 was had in the Townville, SC area on the Clemson CBC 17 Dec (Sidney Gauthreaux, Jr. et al.) and five were along Butler Bridge Rd., Henderson County, NC 7 Jan (Marilyn Westphal).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: This winter's reports of White-winged Dove included one at Morehead City, NC 12–18 Dec (John Fussell, sev. obs.), one at nearby Beaufort, NC 10 Jan (Rich & Susan Boyd), and two in Charleston, SC 31 Dec (David McLean).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL: Interesting Saw-whet reports this winter consisted of two at Alligator River NWR, NC 1 Jan (Jeff Lewis) and one in Brevard, NC 6 Feb (Pat Austin, *fide* Norma Siebenheller).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: Very rare during winter, Chuck-Will's-Widows were found twice in North Carolina, with one being photographed during the C. Hatteras CBC 27 Dec (Paul Sykes, Audrey Whitlock, Lena Gallitano) and one being heard at Ocracoke 31 Dec (Peter Doherty, *fide* Peter Vankevich).

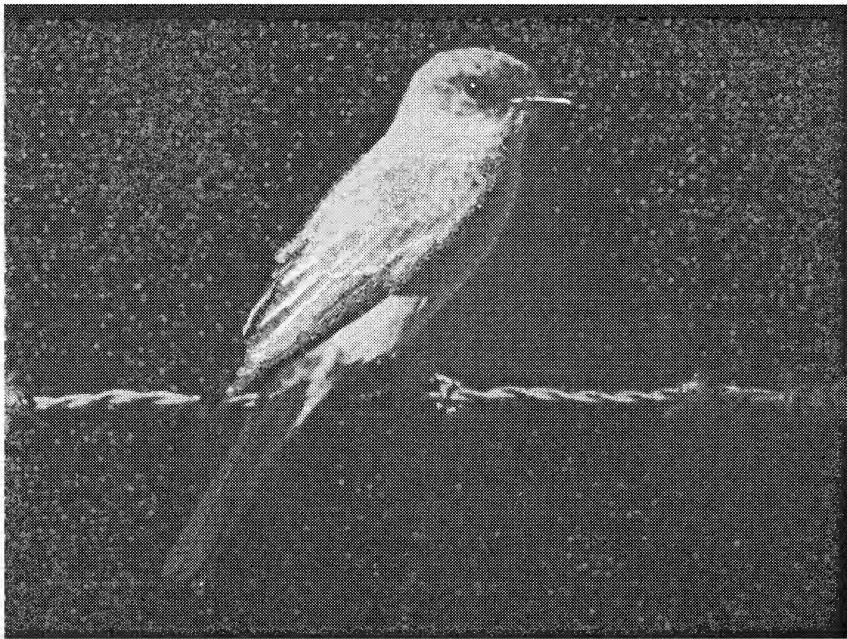
WHIP-POOR-WILL: This species is somewhat more regular in winter along the immediate coast than the preceding species. This season one was near Newport, Carteret County, NC 1 Dec (John Fussell).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: This species is normally found mostly along the immediate coast during winter in the Carolinas. Thus of note inland was an immature male that spent the winter in Chapel Hill, NC (Susan Campbell).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD: There are usually a couple of Black-chinned in the Carolinas each winter. This year's reports involved one on the Litchfield-Pawleys Is., SC CBC 29 Dec (*fide* Jack Peachey) and a female at Long Beach, NC 1 Jan (Greg Massey, Joy Hosier et al.).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: Only one Calliope was noted this winter, an immature male being banded in N. Augusta, SC 27 Dec (Doreen Cubie).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: This species was once again spread across both Carolinas this winter. Some of the more interesting reports included the female returning to a Shelby, NC yard for the seventh year (Susan Campbell), and the presence of five *Selasphorus* (most likely all Rufous) hummingbirds in one area at Bakers Mt. Park, Catawba County, NC the entire winter (John Sutton, Frank Porch, Dwayne Martin).



Say's Phoebe, Carteret Co., NC, 2 Dec 2005. Photo by Will Cook.

SAY'S PHOEBE: One was a good find at a large private farm in Carteret County, NC 1 Dec (Sam Cooper), and was last seen 6 Dec (Jeff Lewis) with access being not allowed after that. This individual provided about the fourth report for the state.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: There were several Ash-throateds found in North Carolina this winter, with one being in the C. Hatteras campground on the CBC there 27 Dec (Chris Eley; Ricky Davis, Pat Moore, James Reuter, Jan Heininger) and one at the Pungo Unit, Pocosin Lakes NWR 28 Jan (Mike Dunn et al., *fide* Will Cook). A third *Myiarchus* flycatcher was seen at Alligator River NWR 13 Jan (Josh Southern), but was not observed closely enough to determine the species, although it was most likely another Ash-throated.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD: The Tropical Kingbird from the fall season near L. Phelps, NC was last noted 26 Dec (Karen & Joe Bearden). It is possible that the bird was taken by a Cooper's Hawk which was in the area for several weeks in December.

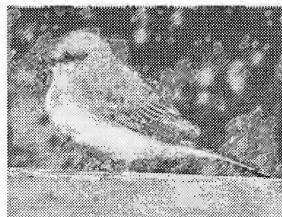
WESTERN KINGBIRD: There was one Western Kingbird reported from the Carolinas this winter, that being at the Pony Pasture on Ocracoke Is., NC 7 Dec (Peter Vankevich et al.).

COMMON RAVEN: This species continued its presence in the Raleigh-Durham area of North Carolina this winter. Two were near Umstead St. Pk., Wake County 17 Dec (*fide* John Connors) and two were at Eno River St. Pk., Durham County 8 Jan (Brian Bockhahn). It is assumed that the ravens present in this part of the state for the last several years are nesting somewhere locally.

BANK SWALLOW: One was observed at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 7 Jan (Simon Thompson et al.). Winter occurrences of this swallow are practically unheard of, with only two to three previous reports from the Carolinas at that season.

CAVE SWALLOW: Cave Swallows made another record influx into the Carolinas this year. As in previous flight years, they showed up in November and lingered into the winter season. The best counts were had at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC where 24+ were found 4 Dec (Chris Hill), and numbers built to an impressive 40+ on 7 Jan (Simon Thompson et al.). The area's Litchfield-Pawleys Is. CBC 29 Dec tallied 50 (*fide* Jack Peachey). Good numbers remained at Huntington Beach through the winter, with 20 still there as late as 18 Feb (Peachey). Elsewhere in South Carolina, three were on the McClellanville CBC 18 Dec (Nathan Dias et al.), three were on the Sun City-Okatie CBC 18 Dec (*fide* Helen Chatterton), and two were on Bulls Is. 1 Jan (Dias et al.). In North Carolina singles were found on the Bodie-Pea Island CBC 28 Dec (Paul Sykes, Audrey Whitlock) and on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC 29 Dec (Ricky Davis).

BARN SWALLOW: Rare winter season reports of this swallow included singles at the north end of Carolina Beach, NC 31 Dec (Ricky Davis) and at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 7 Jan (Simon Thompson et al.).



Western Kingbird, Ocracoke, NC, 7 Dec 2005. Photo by Peter Vankevich

HOUSE WREN: One at Table Rock St. Pk., SC 11–21 Jan (Scott Stegenga) provided a rare winter occurrence for that upstate locality.

SEDGE WREN: One was very rare and unusual in winter far to the west in Henderson County, NC 21 Feb (Marilyn Westphal et al.).

GRAY CATBIRD: This species wintered farther inland away from the usual Coastal Plain area this year. The best reports came from the mountains where catbirds rarely are found at that season. One was in Henderson County, NC 18 Dec (Ron Selvey) and 17 Feb (Marilyn Westphal), while one was in the Hospital Fields area of Transylvania County, NC until at least 6 Feb (Bill and Norma Siebenheller).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Several noteworthy reports of this Coastal Plain wintering species included one at L. Wheeler, Raleigh, NC 17 Dec (*fide* John Connors), one on the Durham, NC CBC 18 Dec (Will Cook), one on the Jordan L., NC CBC 1 Jan (Sterling and Josh Southern, Brian Strong), and one quite far to the west at Charlotte, NC 26 Jan (John Buckman).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: There were a good number of reports of Nashville Warbler this winter. In North Carolina one was found on the Wayne County CBC 17 Dec (Eric Dean, Mary Bridges), one was on the Morehead City CBC 18 Dec (Jamie Cameron), and one was on the Durham CBC 18 Dec (Dan Kaplan, Norm Budnitz, Patsy Bailey). In South Carolina one was at Conway 9 Dec (Paul Lehman), one was on the Savannah, GA CBC 1 Jan (*fide* Steve Calver) and one was at Huntington Beach St. Pk. 27 Feb (Doug & Pam DeNeve).

NORTHERN PARULA: One of the rarer wintering warblers in the Carolinas, single Northern Parulas were on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC 27 Dec (Paul Sykes, Lena Gallitano, Audrey Whitlock) and in the Elizabethan Gardens on Roanoke Is., NC 12 Dec–10 Jan (Jeff Lewis).

YELLOW WARBLER: Noteworthy winter reports of this warbler included one at the usual causeway area of L. Mattamuskeet, NC 29 Dec (Jeff Lewis) until at least 14 Jan (Linda Davis, *fide* Royce Hough) and at Savannah NWR, SC 4 Feb (Gene Keferl et al.).

“AUDUBON’S” YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: This western form was reported twice this winter. The bird present at a feeder in Chapel Hill, NC last winter returned this year and was noted for a week or more from 24 Jan on (Judy Murray, Will Cook). Also one was a good find at Cane Creek Park, Union County, NC 8 Dec (John Buckman et al.).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: One was a good find on the Wayne County, NC CBC 17 Dec, as noted by John Fussell and Tommy Wade. This is easily one of the rarest winter warblers in the Carolinas, with only a handful of previous reports.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: Noteworthy winter reports from the Outer Banks of North Carolina included one on the Kitty Hawk CBC 17 Dec (Lee Yoder, *fide* Jeff Lewis) and one on the C. Hatteras CBC 27 Dec (Paul Sykes et al.). Also two furnished a good total for the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC 29 Dec (*fide* Allen Bryan).

PRAIRIE WARBLER: Reports of this uncommon-but-regular coastal wintering warbler included one or more at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC all season (John Fussell et al.), one in the Croatan Nat. Forest, NC 30 Jan (Al Gamache), one near L. Phelps through Dec (Ricky Davis, sev. obs.) and one along US 64 near Roper, Washington County, NC 4 Dec (Doug Pratt, Josh & Sterling Southern).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: This species was reported in good numbers this winter, with the best counts being the impressive 15 on the Santee NWR, SC CBC 31 Dec (*fide* Lex Glover) and the four on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR, NC CBC 29 Dec (*fide* Allen Bryan). Also of note were two on the Wayne County, NC CBC 17 Dec (John Fussell, Tommy Wade) and one on the Jordan L., NC CBC 1 Jan (Norm Budnitz et al.).

AMERICAN REDSTART: One found on the Hilton Head Is., SC CBC 17 Dec (*fide* Nan Lloyd) provided a very rare winter report for this species in the Carolinas.

OVENBIRD: This species normally occurs in winter at a very few locations along the immediate coast such as Buxton Woods near Cape Hatteras. Thus of note were singles at a feeder in Southern Shores, NC 18 Dec (Joan Kutulas) and near L. Phelps on the Pettigrew St. Pk, NC CBC 30 Dec (Allen Bryan, Ricky Davis).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: The only report this winter came from the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 15 Dec (Paul Lehman, Steve Calver). This area has hosted Northerns on more than one occasion in past winters.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT: Rare for the mountains in winter, one was a good find in Henderson County, NC 18 Dec (Simon Thompson, Bob Olthoff) and 8 Jan (Marilyn Westphal).

WILSON'S WARBLER: Two were good finds on the Wayne County, NC CBC 17 Dec (John Fussell, Tommy Wade). This species is practically annual as a wintering species, although in very small numbers.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: There were more reports than usual of this species this winter. Single birds were located on the Durham, NC CBC 18 Dec (Jeff Pippen, Jacob Socolar), on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC CBC 29 Dec (Allen Bryan, Andy Webb), on the ACE Basin, SC CBC 1 Jan (*fide* Pete Laurie), at Lancaster, SC in late Jan (Tim Allison), and at Santee NWR, SC 4 Feb (Tim Kalbach et al.).

SUMMER TANAGER: A female Summer Tanager was a surprise visitor to a feeder in Whispering Pines, Moore County, NC 28–29 Jan (Susan Campbell). The bird, seen on and off until the spring, provided one of only a handful of winter sightings for that state.

SCARLET TANAGER: This species is even rarer than the preceding species in winter. Thus of interest was a female-plumaged Scarlet at a feeder in Conway, SC 2–29 Dec (Gary Phillips, Jack Peachey) for only the second winter report for that state.

WESTERN TANAGER: There were fewer Western Tanagers in the Carolinas this winter, compared to last year. Three reports involved a female at a feeder in Wilmington, NC during Jan–Feb (*fide* Susan Campbell), a male

at a feeder in Morehead City, NC 15 Jan (*fide* John Fussell), and an immature male at a feeder in York, SC late Feb into March (*fide* Bill Hilton, Jr.).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: This winter's Clay-colored reports were led by the four on the Pettigrew St. Pk., NC CBC 30 Dec (Allen Bryan, Ricky Davis) and the two on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR, NC CBC 29 Dec (*fide* Bryan). Others included two far inland, with one wintering for the second year in a row in Lenoir, NC (Walt Kent, *fide* Kent Fiala) and one near the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC 19–22 Jan (Wayne Forsythe). Elsewhere one was at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 10 Dec (Rich & Susan Boyd) and one was near L. Phelps, NC 4 Dec (Doug Pratt, Sterling & Josh Southern) and 21 Dec (Dave Lenat).

LARK SPARROW: Only two were mentioned this winter with one along Funston Rd., Brunswick County, NC 31 Dec (Greg Massey, John Ennis) and one on the Greenville, NC CBC 31 Dec (Ken Harrell).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Reports of this elusive but regular-in-winter species involved an impressive count of 10 on the Clemson, SC CBC 17 Dec (*fide* Drew Lanham), one at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 10–16 Dec (John Fussell, Jack Fennell), one at Eagle Island, Wilmington, NC 30 Dec (John Ennis, Harry Sell), one on the Santee NWR, SC CBC 31 Dec (*fide* Lex Glover), and one on the Savannah, GA CBC 1 Jan (*fide* Steve Calver).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: Two were good finds on the ACE Basin, SC CBC 1 Jan (*fide* Pete Laurie); but one in the mountains at Pisgah Forest, Transylvania County, NC 1 Jan (Elizabeth Galloway, Marvin & Michelle Barg) was truly unexpected, being very rare away from the Coastal Plain.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: This local, elusive species was reported several times in South Carolina this winter. One was at Clemson 14 Dec (Paul Champlin), and three were there on the CBC 17 Dec (*fide* Drew Lanham). One was found on the Charleston CBC 1 Jan (Andy Harrison, Craig Watson), three were on the Savannah, GA CBC 1 Jan (*fide* Steve Calver), and two were located on the Santee NWR CBC 31 Dec (*fide* Lex Glover), with one still there 4 Feb (Tim Kalbach).

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: One at Clemson, SC in early Dec (Paul Champlin) provided a very rare inland sighting for the winter season. Most inland Sharp-tails are found during the migration seasons.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: The number of Lincoln's Sparrow reports seemed about average this winter. Some of the more interesting ones included an impressive count of eight on the Pettigrew St. Pk., NC CBC 30 Dec (Ricky Davis, Allen Bryan), three on the Southport–Bald Head Island,



Clay-colored Sparrow,
Lenoir, NC, Feb 2006.
Photo by Walt Kent.

NC CBC 1 Jan (*fide* Greg Massey), one on the Wayne County, NC CBC 17 Dec (John & Paula Wright), one on the Santee NWR, SC CBC 31 Dec (*fide* Lex Glover), and one at Savannah NWR, SC 17–18 Dec (Tim Miller, Dot Bambach et al.). Farther inland, where much harder to find, were singles along the Sandy Creek Trail, Durham, NC 8 Jan (Kent Fiala) and one on the Falls Lake, NC CBC 2 Jan (Dave Lenat). Several were found in the mountains where the species is quite rare during winter. One was on the Henderson County, NC CBC 18 Dec (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, Simon Thompson), two were found in Transylvania County, NC 30 Dec (Norma Siebenheller) and a third was found at another area in that same county 1 Jan (Bill & Norma Siebenheller).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: A good count for the Coastal Plain was the 94 found near L. Phelps on the Pettigrew St. Pk., NC CBC 30 Dec (Allen Bryan, Ricky Davis).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: This winter's Lapland Longspur reports involved 5+ north of St. Matthews, Calhoun County, SC 10 Dec (Robin Carter, Paul Lehman), three at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 22 Dec (Wayne Forsythe), and seven at Red Hill, Edgecombe County, NC 28 Jan (Ricky Davis), with at least one still there 11 Feb (Jeff Lewis).

SNOW BUNTING: North Carolina had the only Snow Buntings reported, with singles at Oregon Inlet 3 Dec (Ricky Davis), at C. Hatteras point 3 Dec (Eric & Celia Dean et al.), and at Shell Is., Wrightsville Beach 10 Dec (Bruce Smithson).



Snow Bunting, C. Hatteras, 3 Dec 2005.
Photo by Celia Dean.

INDIGO BUNTING: Rare and unusual in winter were single Indigo Buntings at Southport, NC 1 Jan (Joy Hosier, Greg Massey) and at Charlotte, NC 2 Feb (John Buckman). The latter bird was especially unusual since most winter Indigos are found in the Coastal Plain.

PAINTED BUNTING: Noteworthy winter reports included multiple Painteds at up to six different Carteret County, NC locations (*fide* John Fussell), one inland on the Santee NWR, SC CBC 31 Dec (*fide* Lex Glover), and another inland on the Wayne County, NC CBC 17 Dec (Russ and Patricia Tyndall).

DICKCISSEL: The only winter sighting noted was of one near L. Phelps, NC 2 Feb, by Dave Lenat.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: A female Yellow-headed was photographed along Ratcliff Cove Rd., Haywood County, NC 29 Dec (Marilyn Westphal, Wayne Forsythe et al.). This bird provided a very

unusual record for the mountains since most reports of this species tend to come from eastern localities.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: The best count received was of 20 at the usual Carteret County, NC farm area 12 Jan (John Fussell, Jack Fennell). Other reports included one at Alligator River NWR, NC 1 Jan (Jeff Lewis), three along NC 45 south of Plymouth, NC 28 Jan (Haven Wiley et al.), one at Congaree Swamp, SC 18 Dec (*fide* Robin Carter), three near Townville, SC 17 Dec (Sidney Gauthreaux, Jr. et al.), and five still there 28 Feb (Gauthreaux, Jr.).

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE: There were two reports of this rare western oriole in North Carolina this winter. A male was briefly seen at a feeder in Conover 14 Jan (*fide* Dwayne Martin) while another male was at a feeder north of Pittsboro, Chatham County from late Jan until early March (Chris Canfield, sev. obs.). These provided about the 12th and 13th reports for that state.



Bullock's Orioles. Left, Chatham Co., NC, 4 Mar 2006. Photo by Will Cook. Right, Conover, NC, 14 Jan 2006. Photo by Mary Ann McCree.

RED CROSSBILL: Rare sightings away from the mountains involved one at Ebenezer Recreation Area, Jordan Lake, NC 20 Dec (Tom Krakauer et al.) and two at Johnston's Mill Preserve, Chapel Hill, NC 24 Dec (Shantanu Phukan).

EVENING GROSBEAK: Only one Evening Grosbeak was reported from the Carolinas this winter. That was one noted at a feeder in Black Mountain, NC 25 Dec (Stu Gibeau). This species has just about ceased being a winter visitor to the Carolinas, with numbers steadily dwindling each season.

Reviews

Birds of Shenandoah National Park, Blue Ridge Parkway, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park – A Field Guide

Ernest Preston Edwards. The McDonald and Woodward Publishing Company, Blacksburg, Virginia, 2006. Principal illustrator Edward Murrell Butler. Includes 336 species and color illustrations, 141 pages. 7 ½" by 4 ½". ISBN 0-939923-96-3. \$19.95.

The field guides most commonly used by birders today cover extensive areas and include hundreds of species. For experienced birders, who use field guides to identify birds they are less familiar with because they are uncommon or rare in their area, this type of field guide is ideal. But for less experienced birders, finding a species in a large guide can be difficult and time consuming, especially if the birder is relying mainly on color for identification as many beginning birders do. Because beginning birders are not practiced at using range maps, unlikely identifications can occur.

This book was designed to eliminate some of those errors by limiting the range covered and reducing the number of choices available. The small size also makes it very convenient for carrying in the field. The size of the book is accomplished by eliminating many eastern species that may occur in the mountain area rarely, accidentally, or never. This could also result in misidentifications in rare circumstances, but probably much less frequently than those that could occur as a result of an overabundance of choices. The book also lacks range maps, since the range it covers is limited. When species occur over only part of the entire range there are notations. A significant advantage of the limited range covered in this guide is that location descriptions include elevation, when significant, and habitats specific to the mountains. Maps of the three major areas are included with some major landmarks. Species are grouped into birds associated with water and land birds, with the land birds subdivided into various categories. Each group is easily located with convenient color-coded strips on the right side of the page.

Overall this is a handy little guide to carry into the field, since it is small enough to fit into a large pocket, but it does have some limitations. Some of the more vibrantly colored birds appear dull and dingy in the illustrations. Also, plates of some of the neotropical migrants only include adult birds in summer plumage, and most plates that do show winter or immature plumage show only the head of the bird. Since many migratory birds molt into winter plumage before the end of summer the inadequate coverage of primary plumage is a problem. Including written descriptions of winter plumage is helpful, but because most novice birders skim through guides just looking at the pictures, written descriptions probably aren't enough. Even with these limitations, though, this is a handy little starter guide for those living in or visiting the mountain region. — *Marilyn Westphal, Hendersonville, NC*

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	Gail Lankford, Asheville, NC	whocooksforyou@charter.net
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SC Members-at-Large:	Bob Ellis, Columbia, SC	ellis29205@aol.com
	Linda Kolb, Seneca, SC	rapahana4@hotmail.com

EX-OFFICIO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Immediate Past President:	Bob Wood, Ridgeway, SC	wood@rtt-law.com

HEADQUARTERS SECRETARY

Dana Harris, 6300 Creedmoor Road, STE 138 PMB 422, Raleigh, NC 27612-6744
hq@carolinabirdclub.org

Rare Bird Alert: (704) 332-BIRD

Web Site: carolinabirdclub.org

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Editor

Kent Fiala, 1714 Borland Road
Hillsborough, NC 27278
chat@carolinabirdclub.org

General Field Notes Editors

North Carolina

Will Cook

South Carolina

William Post

Briefs for the Files

Ricky Davis

Associate Editor

Ginger Travis

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2006 Spring Migration Counts in North Carolina

Marilyn Westphal

230 Park Lane, Hendersonville, NC 28791, mjwestphal@unca.edu

Seventeen North Carolina count areas submitted data for the 2006 spring migration count, five from the mountains, 11 from the piedmont/upper coastal plain, and one from the coast. The counts were carried out between 29 April and 27 May, with five of the counts carried out on the North American Migration Count day, 13 May. Most of the piedmont counts were completed in late April or early May. The two new mountain counts were completed in late May because they covered largely high-elevation areas where spring arrives late.

A total of 408 participants counted 85,980 individuals and 232 species in 1218 party-hours. Although total birds, party-hours, and participants were greater than last year, total number of species was slightly lower (239 in 2005). Nevertheless, several uncommon species were located, including three Mississippi Kites, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, two Lark Sparrows, seven Black Scoters, a Northern Saw-whet Owl, two Gray-cheeked Thrushes, a Connecticut Warbler, three Wilson's Warblers, and 19 Red Crossbills. Fifty-three species (23% of the total) were located in only one count area. The majority of these were in Onslow County, the only count area in the coastal plain. Twenty-eight species (12% of the total) were found in every count area. Count areas with species exclusive to those counts are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Number of species exclusive to a count

Mountains	Piedmont	Coastal Plain
Transylvania County—3	Jordan Lake—2	Onslow County—36
Balsam Mountains—3	Durham—2	
Henderson County—3	Southern Pines—2	
Buncombe County—1		
Black Mountains—1		

There were 21 species exclusive to the mountains, 18 exclusive to the piedmont, and 36 exclusive to the coastal plain. They are listed in Table 2.

Spring counts have been carried out for over 50 years in North Carolina, and in the next issue of *The Chat* a variety of species will be analyzed for trends over time. Over this half-century, with the exception of the 1980s, count results have been published in *The Chat*. The count areas themselves have varied over the years, but a few have been covered fairly consistently since the 1950s including Raleigh, Chapel Hill, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem. These counts in particular provide a wealth of data on changing bird

Table 2. Species exclusive to a region.

Mountains		
American Wigeon	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Sedge Wren
Blue-winged Teal	Alder Flycatcher	Marsh Wren
Northern Shoveler	Willow Flycatcher	Cerulean Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Least Flycatcher	Connecticut Warbler
Virginia Rail	Black-capped Chickadee	Dark-eyed Junco
Black-billed Cuckoo	Brown Creeper	Red Crossbill
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Winter Wren	Pine Siskin
Piedmont		
Mute Swan	Northern Harrier	Horned Lark
Bufflehead	Merlin	Bank Swallow
Hooded Merganser	Pectoral Sandpiper	Gray-cheeked Thrush
Anhinga	American Woodcock	Blue-winged Warbler
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Lark Sparrow
Mississippi Kite	Loggerhead Shrike	Grasshopper Sparrow
Coastal		
Black Scoter	Semipalmated Plover	Short-billed Dowitcher
Northern Gannet	Piping Plover	Laughing Gull
Brown Pelican	American	Gull-billed Tern
Least Bittern	Oystercatcher	Royal Tern
Snowy Egret	Willet	Sandwich Tern
Little Blue Heron	Whimbrel	Common Tern
Tricolored Heron	Ruddy Turnstone	Least Tern
Cattle Egret	Red Knot	Black Skimmer
White Ibis	Sanderling	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Clapper Rail	Semipalmated	Seaside Sparrow
Sora	Sandpiper	Painted Bunting
Black-bellied Plover	Dunlin	Boat-tailed Grackle
Wilson's Plover	Stilt Sandpiper	

populations over time, at least from the piedmont. Other piedmont counts started later, but have been consistent since then. From the coast and the coastal plain, counts were more numerous in the early years, but ceased in more recent years. Areas formerly covered with some regularity included Wilmington, Beaufort, Morehead City, New Bern, Rocky Mount, and a few others. Now the only count representing the coast is Onslow County, and in the coastal plain only a couple of counts on the edge of the coastal plain/piedmont. More representation from this area would provide better balance for comparisons over time.

Counts in the mountain area began much later than in other areas, so comparisons with early years are not possible. Even when these counts began there were often relatively few participants, and/or most of the count areas were in the mountain valleys. This year two mountain counts were conducted almost entirely in the extensive forest and higher-elevation areas of the mountains. These counts helped give a more balanced representation of the actual bird life in the mountains. Of course count areas throughout the state are largely dictated by where the birders live, and most birders live in the more populated areas. Thus, there will probably never be balanced representation throughout the state, but those interested in starting counts in the under-represented areas would be encouraged.

Details of each individual count including names of compilers and participants, and count highlights follow:

Count Area Details

Mountains

Transylvania County—count date 13 May, 118 species, 4010 individuals, 38 participants, 65.00 party-hours.

Weather: 40–67°F, partly sunny, windy in afternoon.

Compiler: Norma Siebenheller (sieb@citcom.net)

Participants: Kathryn and Dennis Allen, Marvin and Michele Barg, Kathy Bartt, Dorothy Bauer, Dick Blee, Pat Bohan, Gladys and Art Brintnall, Kristin Connor, John Devlin, Elizabeth Galloway,¹ Jeanne Grimmenga, Bill and Jean Hough, Jack Hudson, Nancy and Tom Iha, Morgan and Betty Jones, Mike Judd, Ludwig Kempe, Ruth Klock, Joe Kotowski, Nilsa Lobdell, Pam Maher, Betty McIlwain, Carolyn and Rick Mills, Beth and Speed Rogers, Mary Sauerteig, Ed Schwartzman, Norma and Bill Siebenheller, Sam and Marge Woodruff, Camille Ziegler

Exclusives: American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck

Notes: With 38 observers and fairly good weather conditions in our favor, the count for the day came to 118 species, one of the highest totals ever recorded here. Only the 1993 and 1999 scores of 119, and the 123 achieved in 1992, are higher for this area. Among the notable sightings of the day were Common Loon and Northern Shoveler at Ecusta pond; American Wigeon at an area lake; and two Purple Finches and a White-throated Sparrow at various feeders. We were also able to record all three of the expected owl species (Barred, Great Horned, and Eastern Screech) from homeowners who hear them regularly at night.

Of course there are always a few that are missed, and among these were Eurasian Collared-Dove, which has been missing lately from its usual Brevard haunts, and both Winter Wren and Brown Creeper, which were silent and out of sight at Devil's Courthouse when the Parkway team reached their neighborhood. The Cerulean Warbler has not been found this spring at Buck Spring trailhead and was not discovered anywhere else. Swainson's Warbler could not be located on count day (though one has been, since). And

the Hermit Thrush that was singing along the Parkway last year was silent—if it's even present—and thus not added to our lists.

Warblers were found, for the most part, by those birders who can identify them by sound, and often missed by those who rely only on actual sightings, as the latter were hampered by the late date and the thickness of leaf cover.

Norma Siebenheller

Great Balsam and Plott Balsam Mountains IBA—count date 20 May, 81 species, 3163 individuals, 17 participants, 73.50 party-hours.

Weather: Varied with elevation, foggy and cool at higher elevations, warmer and partly cloudy to clear at lower elevations, 45–75°F. Windy in the morning.

Compiler: Marilyn Westphal (mjwestphal@unca.edu)

Participants: Beth Brinson, Lou Dwarshuis, Tom Flagg, Cathy King, Marilyn Kolton, Gail and Charlie Lankford, Tim Lewis, Bob Olthoff, Len and Esther Pardue, Kate Queen, Steve Semanchuk, Ray Sharpton, Jim Stone, Lou Weber, Marilyn Westphal

Exclusives: Alder Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Black-capped Chickadee

Notes: The first-ever Balsam Mountains Spring Bird Count was held on 20 May with 17 participants in eight teams. Although the weather started out pre-dawn with thunderstorms and heavy rains, fortunately it passed through before the sun rose. Some mountain-peak areas remained windy and foggy most of the morning, but other areas cleared, and the forest trails were calm. The area covered extended from north of Mt Pisgah to the Smokies along the Blue Ridge Parkway, and included the Shining Rock and Middle Prong Wilderness areas. Since most of the area is in the National Park and National Forest lands, includes several large grassy and heath balds, and is relatively high-elevation (much of it above 4500 feet), species that dominate those areas were the most numerous on the count. A total of 81 species were found. Most common birds in order of abundance were: Dark-eyed Junco (326), Chestnut-sided Warbler (310), Eastern Towhee (248), American Robin (176), Golden-crowned Kinglet (163), Blue-headed Vireo (155), Black-throated Blue Warbler (141), Cedar Waxwing (124), Canada Warbler (105), and Black-throated Green Warbler (100). There were still a few late migrants coming through such as Cape May, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and White-throated Sparrows, and some that may or may not have been migrants such as Yellow-rumped Warbler, Cerulean Warbler and Hermit Thrush. Hermit Thrushes were suspected breeding birds in this mountain range in 2005 and they may very well be breeding birds again in 2006.

Marilyn Westphal

Henderson County—count date 13 May, 120 species, 2474 individuals, 15 participants, 38.25 party-hours.

Weather: Temperature 45–75°F, mostly sunny, calm in morning, light to moderate wind in afternoon.

Compilers: Jim and Barbara Neal (jlbjneal@bellsouth.net)

Participants: Bill Fisk, Wayne Forsythe, Richard Gibbs, Charlotte Goedsche, Andrea Hessey, Richard Leppingwell, Mike McCurdy, Ron Metcalf, Nora Murdock, Janie Owens, Barbara Neal, Harvey Neal, Ron Selsey, Marilyn Westphal

Exclusives: Blue-winged Teal, Marsh Wren, Connecticut Warbler

Notes: A new record was set on Saturday, 13 May 2006 for the number of species seen or heard on the annual Spring Migration Count in Henderson County. The 120 species topped the previous record by five. In nine years we have found a low of 103 in 2001 and highs of 115 in 1998 and 2004, until this new record. There were 15 people out on a mostly sunny day, with temperatures ranging from a low around 40°F in the early morning to 70°F in the afternoon, covering the nine sections of the county that we normally cover. In spite of the record number of species and the great weather, the total number of birds was the third lowest at 2474. While we beat last year's 2269 and 1999's low of 2015, we didn't come close to our previous high of 3705 set in 2002. Finding three species not previously seen in the county on Spring Migration Count day and the record 120 species were the highlights of the day. The three new species were the American Coot, the Eurasian Collared-Dove, and the Cliff Swallow. The Eurasian Collared-Dove has expanded its territory to include Henderson County, and the other two are usually breeding elsewhere. We missed a few birds that had been found on one or more counts, but finding a record 120 species and three new species that have never been seen on the count in previous years made it a great day.

Jim Neal

Buncombe County—count date 14 May, 115 species, 4879 individuals, 19 participants, 74.20 party-hours.

Weather: Cool, 40–65°F depending on elevation, light to moderate winds, partly cloudy to cloudy.

Compiler: Marilyn Westphal (mjwestphal@unca.edu)

Participants: Kevin Caldwell, Lou Dwarshuis, Peggy Franklin, Charlotte Goedsche, Doug Johnston, Marilyn Kolton, Gail and Charlie Lankford, Andrew Laughlin, Tim Lewis, Bob Olthoff, Naomi Otterness, Janie Owens, Len Pardue, Steve Semanchuk, Liz Skiles, Sarah Urquart, Lou Weber, Marilyn Westphal.

Exclusives: Virginia Rail

Notes: It was a cool day for the Buncombe County migration count held on Sunday, 13 May with 19 participants. A total of 115 species and 4879 individuals were found, about average for the Buncombe count. The count area is a mix of forest and open country at a wide range of elevations. Most species were at average numbers, but many of the woodland birds showed somewhat lower numbers than usual, particularly several warblers, vireos, and woodpeckers. Red-bellied and Hairy Woodpecker and Northern Flicker numbers were at all-time lows. Also, unusually low numbers of Blue-headed (48) and Red-eyed Vireos (86), Chestnut-sided (25), Black-throated Blue (54), Black-throated Green (50), Blackburnian (27), Ovenbird (64—record

low), and Hooded Warblers (54) were found. Record high numbers of Wild Turkey (24), Northern Bobwhite (10, including one at over 5000 feet elevation), Brown-headed Nuthatch (10), Veery (20), American Robin (320), Warbling Vireo (7), House Finch (102), and, unfortunately, Brown-headed Cowbird (40) were found.

For the first time Canada Warblers led the list in warbler numbers with 70. A record number of 11 Hermit Thrushes were found, 10 of them between Craggy Visitors Center and Balsam Gap. Although some of these may have been transients, several were probably breeding birds. Also unusual for the count was a Virginia Rail at an elevation over 5000 feet in Craggy Gardens sitting in a laurel thicket, and discovered by visiting birder Tom Driscoll. Other unusual finds were a Black-billed Cuckoo, also at Craggy Gardens, two Sedge Wrens at Warren-Wilson College, and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, probably a breeding bird, north of Bull Creek Valley overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Marilyn Westphal

Black Mountains IBA—count date 27 May, 53 species, 1186 individuals, 11 participants, 31.25 party-hours.

Weather: Cool, 40–75°F depending on elevation, windy, mostly clear.

Compiler: Marilyn Westphal (mjwestphal@unca.edu)

Participants: Kevin Caldwell, Charlotte Goedsche, Doug Johnston, Gail and Charlie Lankford, Andrew Laughlin, Steve Semanchuk, Ray Sharpton, Jim Stone, Tom Tribble, Marilyn Westphal

Exclusives: Northern Saw-whet Owl

Notes: The Black Mountains IBA Spring Count was held on Saturday, 27 May in fine weather, although quite windy on the mountain ridges in the morning. The Black Mountains are the highest mountain range east of the Mississippi River and include Mount Mitchell and several other peaks above 6000 feet. The late date of the count was quite suitable for this area. Even in late May many of the trees had not yet leafed out. Eleven participants in four groups covered mainly higher-elevation areas around Mount Mitchell, but also some lower areas around the Black Mountains campground. Unlike the Balsam Mountains count, no large balds are covered in this area and the bird population reflects largely high-elevation forest species. For this reason, the order of abundance is somewhat different on this count than on the Balsam Mountains count where Chestnut-sided Warblers dominated. In the forest the Black-throated Green Warbler takes over, and Golden-crowned Kinglets are almost never out of earshot. Fewer total birds were counted largely because there were fewer people counting, and they covered a smaller area. A total of 59 species were found. Top ten species in order of abundance were: Golden-crowned Kinglet (197), Dark-eyed Junco (174), Black-throated Green Warbler (76), Canada Warbler (55), Winter Wren (53), Blue-headed Vireo (50), Blackburnian Warbler (49), Chestnut-sided Warbler (44), Eastern Towhee (42), and Black-throated Blue Warbler (41). Interesting finds were a couple of Yellow-rumped Warblers that may have been late migrants or may

have been breeding birds, a healthy population of 17 Hermit Thrushes—probably largely breeding birds, a lingering Swainson's Thrush, an Eastern Meadowlark on Mount Mitchell, a family of three Louisiana Waterthrushes in the Black Mountain campground, a flock of 18 Red Crossbills about a mile or two north of Mt Mitchell on the Blue Ridge Parkway, and an Eastern Saw-whet Owl calling briefly just after dark at Balsam Gap. Strangest absentee from the count was Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Marilyn Westphal

Piedmont

Catawba County—count date 13 May, 102 species, 2109 individuals, 7 participants, 25 party-hours.

Weather: Clear, 35–75°F.

Compiler: Dwayne Martin (redxbill@charter.net)

Participants: Andrea Bruns, Dwayne Martin, Lori Martin, Monroe Pannell, Frank Porch, Blair Rayfield, John Sutton

Exclusives: none

Notes: The 2006 Catawba County spring migration count was held on Saturday, 13 May. The weather was clear with a very cool 35 degrees in the morning and a high of 75 in the afternoon. We did about average with 102 species. The best bird of the day was an Anhinga seen by John Sutton flying over Bakers Mountain Park in the southwestern part of the county. This was a first for the count. The other first for the count was two Herring Gulls seen on Lake Norman. Other good birds included Caspian Tern and Forster's Tern, also seen on Lake Norman. Misses included any owls (no owling was attempted), Wild Turkey, and Northern Bobwhite.

Dwayne Martin

Forsyth County—count date 13 May, 123 species, 5430 individuals, 40 participants, 82.50 party-hours.

Compiler: Linda Davis (davisl@mindspring.com)

Participants: Kay Bergey, John Cardarelli, John and Lee Carter, Larry and Linda Davis, Phil Dickinson, David and Susan Fisher, Cynthia Donaldson, Margaret and Gardner Gidley, Bill Gifford, Bill and Susan Hammond, John Hammond, Myrna Harris, Alcee Hecht, Bert Hollifield, Elaine Hopkins, Harriet and Royce Hough (and son Henry), Bill Jackson, Warren and Susan Leake Jones, Ray Kandt, Barbara and Leon Kendrick, Ellen Kirkman, Jim Martin, Ann and Sven Halling Newsome, Paul Powers, Jeremy Reiskind, Chester and Ann Robertson, Sue Rupp, Gene Schepker, Lois Schneider, David Shuford, Ina Stanton, Cynthia Thompson, Jeff Turner, Gray Tuttle

Exclusives: none

Notes: none

Greensboro—count date 6 May, 130 species, 8428 individuals, 35 participants, 121.00 party-hours.

Compiler: Herb Hendrickson (hhendrickson@triad.rr.com)

Participants: Louise Brown, Dennis Burnette, Lynn Burnette, Beth Bursuck, Dan Chambers, Sue Cole, Phil Crisp, Scott DePue, Judi Durr, Larry Gasper, Herb Hendrickson, Phillip Kellam, Jane Lewis, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link, Clarence Mattocks, Gregg Morris, Lynn Moseley, Jean Murdick, Sandy Post, Danny Royster, Deborah Sharp, Tony Sharp, Tom Shepherd, Wallace Sills, Dirk Simmons, Quint Simmons, Lou Skrabec, Joann Smith, Ann Somers, Lauren Spence, Johnathan Thielen, Ann Walter-Fromson, Melissa Whitmire, Anthony Woodyard.

Exclusives: none

Notes: none

Southern Pines—count date 7 May, 134 species, 5154 individuals, 24 participants and 4 feeder-watch.

Compiler: Susan Campbell (susan@ncaves.com)

Participants: Brady Beck, Kerry Brust, Carol Bowman, Susan Campbell, Jay Carter, Dick Dole, Lois Dole, Charlotte Gantz-feeder, Scott Hartley, Erich Hoffman, Pat Hoffman-feeder, Tom Howard, Wayne Irvin, Linda Jones, David McCloy, Michael McCloy, Carolyn McDermott, Dan Pieroni, Bob Perkins, Patrick Shaffner, Bruce Sorrie, Mary Stephenson-feeder, Lowell Strine, Susan Strine, Vaud Travis-feeder, Rosalyn Walk, Libba Watson, Cassie Willis

Exclusives: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Lark Sparrow

Notes: Despite very stormy conditions most of the day, we did very well this year. Even through the rain and wind, the birds were active. Not surprisingly, numbers of individuals were down but we still managed 135 species. We had several lingering winter birds (Red-breasted Merganser, Northern Harrier, Red-breasted Nuthatch) as well as some later migrants (Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Common Nighthawk, Yellow-breasted Chat) represented as well. The biggest highlight was a male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Horse Country. Also two male Lark Sparrows were found singing on territories on Ft. Bragg. Although this species is a local breeder in the Sandhills, it is quite rare and has not been found on count day in the past.

Susan Campbell

Chapel Hill—count date 6 May, 125 species, 11,384 individuals, 45 field participants, 151.30 party-hours, 8 feederwatch.

Weather: low 60°F, high 81°F; no rain; wind NW 5–10 mph; partly cloudy-clear.

Compiler: Will Cook (cwcook@duke.edu)

Participants: Amy and Kim Aycrigg, Sam Baron, Brian Bockhahn, Jane Brinkley, Norm Budnitz, Derb Carter, Bob Chase, Will Cook, Anson Cooke, Dwayne Cooke, Tom and Barbara Driscoll, Colyer Durovich, Kent Fiala, Maurice Graves, Steven Graves, Perry Haaland, Rachel Harden, Alan

Johnston, Fred and Eleanor Kilgour (feeder), John Kim, Betty King, Alan Kneidel, Jim and Alice Lash (feeder), Lisa Merschel, David Murdock, Judy Murray, Martine Nehrig, Candice Owens (feeder), Harry and Carolina Pederson (feeder), Gervasio Piñeiro, Steve Quinley, Becky Rosser, Barbara Roth, Harriet Sato, Mike and Lois Schultz, Doug Shadwick, Jacob Socolar, Marsha Stephens, Elvin Strowd (feeder), Michael Szpir, Edith Tatum, Judy Teague, Shelley Theye, Pam Timmons, Ginger Travis, Amalie Tuffin, Carol Williamson

Exclusives: none

Notes: The 2006 Chapel Hill spring count on May 6 wasn't nearly as spectacular as last year's, but we still did pretty well, with 125 species and 11,382 individual birds, both slightly above the 10-year average of 123 species and 10,637 birds. We had a near-average number of groups (24) and counters (45), and the 151.3 party-hours was just slightly below the average of 156.7.

We found only a few rarities this time around, unlike last year, when they seemed to be dripping from the trees. Highlights included a pair of Hooded Mergansers found by Judy Murray at Jordan Lake, our fourth straight report. Last year in the same location one young was seen, the first local nesting evidence. Pied-billed Grebes were another highlight, our first since 1991, with singles reported by both Pam Timmons's and Betty King's parties. And for the second year in a row, the team of Betty King, Barbara Roth, and Judy Teague observed a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at the New Hope Creek Waterfowl Impoundment on NC 54. Other goodies included eight Chuck-will's-widows (seven heard by Jacob Socolar, one by Norm Budnitz), a Bank Swallow (Derb Carter), and a Hermit Thrush (Doug Shadwick), and a Canada Warbler (Tom Driscoll's party).

We set record highs for 12 species: we had 25 Bald Eagles (ties 2003), eight Chuck-will's-widows (previous high just one!), 88 Acadian Flycatchers (81 in 1992), 108 Great Crested Flycatchers (80 in 2005), 75 Fish Crows (55 in 2002), an astounding 585 Carolina Wrens (512 in 2005) and 61 House Wrens (45 in 2005), 119 Gray Catbirds (112 in 2005), seven Magnolia Warblers (ties 1986), 53 Prothonotary Warblers (52 in 2005), 143 Summer Tanagers (130 in 2001), and 57 Song Sparrows (53 in 2003).

We missed Northern Bobwhite for only the second time ever. This was not unexpected, however, since we've only averaged just six for the last 10 counts. They used to be much more common in the area, averaging 92 during the years 1960–1985. However, Eastern Meadowlark, another declining species found in similar habitats as Bobwhite, actually did fairly well this year, with a count of 33 vs. last year's record low three. Another big miss this year was Northern Waterthrush—we average seven on a count and hadn't missed this fairly common migrant since 1965. Also unusually low: Northern Flicker (lowest since 1974), European Starling (lowest since 1975), American Redstart, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Blue Grosbeak.

Honors for highest species total this year go to the Mason Farm team (Will Cook, Lisa Merschel, Steve Quinley, John Kim, Gervasio Piñeiro,

Michael Szpir, and Martine Nehrig) with 86 species, followed by Brian Bockhahn with 80 species in the Stagecoach Road area. The team of Tom and Barbara Driscoll and Colyer Durovich had the highest individual tally, with 1147 birds (71 species) in the Eastwood Lake and Turkey Farm Road areas.

Charles W. "Will" Cook

Jordan Lake—count date 7 May, 126 species, 7024 individuals, 51 participants, 117.50 party-hours.

Weather: Low 53°F, high 63°F; wind 0–10 mph; overcast, intermittent showers to heavy rain.

Compiler: Norm Budnitz (Norman.budnitz@duke.edu)

Participants: Patsy Bailey, Barbara Beaman, Todd Bishop, Norm Budnitz, Harold Carter, Barbara Coffman, Patrick Coin, Chip Conrad, Will Cook, Anson and Dwayne Cooke, Sue Ellett, Perry Haaland, Marty Girolami, Walton Haywood, Russell Herman, Carl and Loren Hintz, Dale Hutchinson, Betty King, Tom Krakauer, Terry Logue, Jennifer Maher, Melinda Meade, Kyle Mills, Micky Mills, Robin Moran, Judy Murray, Rick Payne, Barbara Roth, Bob Rybczynski, Harriet Sato, Lois and Mike Schultz, Doug Shadwick, Jennifer Shoemaker, Josh and Sterling Southern, Brian Strong, Judy Teague, Pam Timmons, Ginger Travis, Andy Upshaw, Willem VanEck, Margaret Vimmerstedt, Carol Williamson, Sue Wilson, Bob Winstead

Exclusives: Bufflehead, Pectoral Sandpiper

Notes: There are those who would say that 7 May 2006 was an ugly day. At 5:30 AM it was 63 °F and overcast. Cool, but not too bad. It was all downhill from there. The rains, which weren't supposed to come until mid-afternoon, kicked in shortly after 6:15 AM and kept most of us cold and wet all day. By noon, the temperature had fallen to 53°F. At least the wind didn't add much to the misery, only maxing to about 10 mph. But your compiler has always maintained that bad weather brings good birds. Was that true this year? Read on.

Forty-nine observers in 22 parties counted 7024 individuals (certainly lower than our 10-year average: 8643) of 126 species (right on our 10-year average: 126), during 118 hours in the field (10-year average: 147). So the brave souls who hung in there found a goodly number of species, just not as many individuals of those species. That's okay.

In spite of the rain, or maybe because of it, we did turn up some rather unusual birds. Ginger Travis, kayaking White Oak Creek, found a Common Moorhen. The last time we had a Moorhen on our count was one bird in 1979, when they were still called Common Gallinules! Will Cook found four Buffleheads (one male and three females) on Harris Lake. We get Buffleheads on our Christmas count, but this is only the third spring sighting. Mike and Lois Schultz and Tom Krakauer found three Pectoral Sandpipers at the wastewater settling ponds near Poplar Point (last reported in 1990). Bob Rybczynski turned in a thorough report of a Gray-cheeked Thrush. Though

the bird wasn't singing, he reported its call note and even compared it later to a recording of Bicknell's Thrush on Cornell's website. Josh and Sterling Southern turned up a Blue-winged Warbler, last seen on our count in 1998. And, having invoked the bad weather rule, your compiler would have been red-faced if he and Patsy Bailey hadn't found a Wilson's Warbler, last seen on the count in 1996. Also, Harold Carter reported a count period Greater Yellowlegs at Harris Lake. (Count period is three days before to three days after count day.)

We did not generate any record high numbers for regularly occurring species—not surprising, given the weather. But we didn't miss many species that we should expect to see either; Cooper's Hawk and American Kestrel were two.

Norm Budnitz

Durham—count date 30 April, 119 species, 6371 individuals, 18 participants, 70.50 party-hours.

Weather: Low 38°F, high 67°F; wind NE at 5–15 mph; mostly cloudy, no precipitation.

Compiler: Mike Schultz (ross.gull@verizon.net)

Participants: Patsy Bailey, Brian Bockhahn, Norm Budnitz, Will Cook, Diana Davis, Tom Driscoll, Colyer Durovitch, Dan Kaplan, Tom Krakauer, Brian Murphy, Judy Murray, Chad Schoen, Lois Schultz, Michael Schultz, Doug Shadwick, Jonathan Steere, Jon Stelwegan, Amalie Tuffin

Notes: Most noteworthy of this count was the scarcity of observers! We only fielded 17 birders in 11 parties; however our totals in both species and individual categories were right at our 10-year average, so I guess we all worked extra hard to make up for our shortage. We were even able to set new high numbers for seven species. Five of those were abundant species: Downy Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Carolina Wren (second year in a row at a new high), Eastern Bluebird (also second year in a row), and Indigo Bunting. Black-throated Blue Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat also set new highs.

The Anhinga was a flyby in downtown Durham seen during count period by Dan Kaplan. Dan is one of our most experienced observers so I have not asked for details for a count period bird. In his e-mail to me about the bird's location, Dan did mention its distinctive profile. I did not include Dan as a party or observer in the above total since he was unable to be with us on count day. (We do have one previous record of Anhinga on the Durham count.)

Mike Schultz

Wake County—count date 13 May, 116 species, 4041 individuals, 29 participants, 61.50 party-hours.

Compiler: John Connors (John.Connors@ncmail.net)

Participants: Julie Angerman-Stewart, John Argentati, Joe Bearden, Karen Bearden, Brian Bockhahn, Jerome Brewster, Richard Brown, Charles Bryan, Louise Bryan, Halbert Carmichael, Ben Cohen, John Connors, Jaap

Folmer, Lena Gallitano, Ann Hicks, Vernon Janke, Mark Johns, Will Kimler, Kyle Kittleberger, Jim Mulholland, Bob O'Brien, Mike Pollard, Mike Sanderson, Harriet Sato, Patricia Savage, Roger Shaw, Clyde Smith, Nathan Tam, Kari Wouk

Exclusives: none

Notes: Some interesting observations include Anhinga (1) soaring over Anderson Point Park, a first for the count!; Great Egret (5), Ruddy Duck (1) for the second year at NCSU farm ponds, King Rail (1) calling at Mid Pines, Lesser Yellowlegs (3), Tree Swallow (2), Swainson's Thrush (3), Veery (2), Loggerhead Shrike (5) family at Lake Benson, Warbling Vireo (1) at Anderson Point Park, 24 species of warblers, many of which were abundant, including Yellow (6), Chestnut-sided (2), Magnolia (6), Black-throated Blue (25), Black-throated Green (1), Blackburnian (1), Prairie (5) on territory at Greenview, Palm (1), Blackpoll (16), Black-and-white (11), American Redstart (31), Northern Waterthrush (4), Wilson's Warbler (1), and Canada Warbler (2). Rose-breasted Grosbeak (2), Savannah Sparrow (1), and Baltimore Oriole (2) were also observed. Significant misses include: Hooded Merganser, which wasn't found at Yates Mill Pond; Northern Bobwhite returned to missing in action; nightjars were completely absent, in fact, none were heard during the count week period; Grasshopper Sparrow and Bobolink were not found at either NCSU farms or near Schenk Forest.

Cliff Swallows continue nesting in northern Wake County along Neuse River bridges. Great Blue Heron colonies are shrinking—nest trees have been falling and birds have not found other suitable trees over water. Reports of a large colony in tall pines along Swift Creek were not yet surveyed. Purple Martin colonies are now established at Prairie Ridge Preserve (two nests), and at NC Museum of Art (one nest) in addition to NCSU University Club with a couple of dozen nests. Field Sparrow, Prairie Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat were on territory at Greenview Pond.

John Connors

Falls Lake—count date 1 May, 112 species, 4083 individuals, 13 participants, 77.25 party-hours.

Weather: Low 52°F, high 67°F; wind 5 mph; cloudy-partly cloudy, no precipitation.

Compiler: Brian Bockhahn (cbockhahn4@earthlink.net)

Participants: Karen Berry, Brian Bockhahn, Chuck Border, Amy Corbally, Dave Lenat, Trish MacPherson, Brandy Mangum, Deborah Robertson, Harry Shoffner, Sterling Southern, Deck Stapleton, Sabrina Thompson, Amalie Tuffin

Exclusives: none

Notes: The third-ever Falls Lake spring count tallied 112 species, finally breaking the century mark after two years of 99! The intrepid work of our 13 birders made the difference. New to the count this year was an impressive Least Sandpiper at Rollingview and a long-awaited Green Heron in area 8A. Some other great finds were second count records of House Wren at Camp

Kanata, and Lesser Yellowlegs and Chestnut-sided Warbler at Sandling Beach. Third records include Hermit Thrush at Lick Creek, Swainson's Thrush at Blue Jay Point, Worm-eating Warbler in Woodpecker Ridge and Black-throated Green Warblers (found by two parties). Misses were Common Loon, Spotted Sandpiper, any non-Ring-billed Gulls, Caspian Tern and Louisiana Waterthrush. There were low numbers of sparrows, Eastern Wood-Pewee and cuckoos.

Brian Bockhahn

Kerr Lake—count date 2 May, 118 species, 3852 individuals, 9 participants, 44.50 party-hours.

Weather: Low 42°F, high 77°F; wind 0–12 mph; partly cloudy; no precipitation.

Compiler: Brian Bockhahn (cbockhahn4@earthlink.net)

Participants: Brian Bockhahn, Will Cook, Adam D'Onofrio, Bryce Fleming, Donna Juettner, Dave Lenat, Grace McCowell, Harry Shoffner, Deck Stapleton

Exclusives: none

Notes: With seven birders we tallied 118 species, one more than the last year (117) with seven people but two less than our record first year (120) with only four counters! It is very refreshing to finally have consistent birders covering the same areas for each count. This is why I usually push into the 90s for species totals; I've got my area down pat. In the next few years the Kerr Lake CBC and SBC should continue to surpass all totals. Some amazing first records were an Anhinga at Dick Cross and a Warbling Vireo in Area 1/Eagle Point. Good second-record birds were Blue-winged Warbler, Greater Yellowlegs and Veery. Two parties had Red-breasted Mergansers, three parties had Green Herons, and there were also several Great Egrets seen. The only misses were accipiters and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. The weather was perfect with only a few clouds and a light breeze. Given that the migration season was early and quick this year, this early May date was ideal. Early enough for a lingering Bonaparte's Gull but late enough for the pewees and cuckoos to arrive!

Brian Bockhahn

Raven Rock State Park—count date 29 April, 119 species, 4094 individuals, 18 participants, 54.25 party-hours.

Weather: low 44°F, high 69°F; wind east at 0–11 mph; clear.

Compiler: Paul C. Hart

Exclusives: none

Participants: Jim Bateson, Adam Efird, Paul Hart, Merlin Hartley, Scott Hartley, Tom Howard, Bobby Lutfy, Thomas McKimmon, Charlotte Oleynik, Robert Perkins, Sue Pulsipher, Karin Reese, Kevin Reese, Mitch Reese, Larry Rose, Sarah Stevens, Erik Thomas

Notes: Although not a record count in terms of number of species seen, a good total number was tallied. The number of individuals counted is below the average of 4635 counted over the past five years. Missing from the count

this year were Bald Eagle, Lesser Yellowlegs, American Woodcock, and Blue-headed Vireo. Mississippi Kite is becoming a regular find on this count, having been seen for three springs in a row. Scott Hartley was able to photograph one flying overhead. A single Swainson's Thrush was found by Adam Efird, the first appearance of this species on the count since 1999. The wastewater treatment plant in Lillington has traditionally been a good spot for shorebirds and ducks. It is currently undergoing construction with the renovation of the treatment lagoons. It remains to be seen how this construction will affect the birding opportunities.

Paul C. Hart

Coast

Onslow County—count date 13 May, 156 species, 8298 individuals, 19 participants, 55.00 party-hours.

Weather: Low 51°F, high 76°F, light wind and clear skies.

Compiler: Jim O'Donnell (odjllj@charter.net)

Participants: Clancy Ballenger, Sam Bland, Rich and Susan Boyd, Jamie and Susan Cameron, John Fussell, Al Gamache, Buddy Garrett, Barbara Gould, Gilbert S. Grant, Martin Korenek, Carmen Lombardo, Jim and Laura O'Donnell Sr., Mark Shields, Tim Trott

Exclusives: 36 species, see list in coastal plain section above

Notes: The weather was perfect for count day, a low of 51°F with a high of 76°F, light wind and clear skies. We had the second-highest species total for this count of 157 this year, with three new species, Black Scoter, Peregrine Falcon and a Wilson's Snipe. Other birds of note were late American Redstart, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, and Yellow Warblers. Two teams had White-rumped Sandpiper, and one had Stilt Sandpiper. A frequently missed bird was a Gull-billed Tern found in Camp Lejeune. A new high of at least three Bald Eagles was seen. Four teams spotted eagles, but one may have been counted twice.

Jim O'Donnell

Table 3. 2006 spring counts in North Carolina

		birds per party-hr					
		coastal		piedmont		mountains	
		total					
Date	Duck sp.	5/13	5/14	5/13	5/27	5/13	5/13
Onslow	Ruffed Grouse	1	3	1	23	7	13
Raven Rock	Wild Turkey	2	1	1	4	7	5
Kerr Lake	Northern Bobwhite	10	1	1	14	2	4
Falls Lake	Common Loon	1	1	1	1	9	19
Wake	Pied-billed Grebe	1	1	2	1	41	4
Durham	Northern Gannet	1	1	2	1	4	16
Jordan Lake	Brown Pelican	1	1	2	1	81	16
Chapel Hill	Double-crested Cormorant	6	1	84	140	22	152
Southern Pines	Anhinga	1	1	8	436	214	152
Greensboro	Least Bittern	1	1	1	406	28	152
Forsyth	Great Blue Heron	15	5	127	18	34	17
Catawba	Great Egret	4	1	180	83	20	17
Black Mts	Snowy Egret	5	1	1	5	3	3
Buncombe	Little Blue Heron	2	1	2	5	67	67
Henderson	Tricolored Heron	9	2	1	1	25	25
Balsam Mts	Cattle Egret	1	4	18	9	1	1
Transylvania	Green Heron	5	1	11	8	5	5
	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	7	4	19	16	13	19
	White Ibis	10	63	31	42	104	56
	Black Vulture	7	7	54	10	154	64
	Turkey Vulture	53	6	2	1	31	81
	Owlsprey	2	1	6	1	14	36

	Date	birds per party-hr				
		coastal				
		piedmont				
		mountains		total		
Onslow	5/13	285	285	0.00	0.00	5.18
Raven Rock	4/29	1	1	0.00	0.00	0.02
Kerr Lake	5/2	34	330	0.06	0.32	0.62
Falls Lake	5/1	12	12	0.00	0.00	0.22
Wake	5/13	5	27	53	240	0.07
Durham	4/30	16	13	14	4	141
Jordan Lake	5/7	8	20	16	0.03	0.15
Chapel Hill	5/6	2	5	1	1	1
Southern Pines	5/7	17	1	1	13	17
Greensboro	5/6	8	1	3	28	0.00
Forsyth	5/13	36	20	16	28	0.00
Catawba	5/13	28	39	24	28	0.00
Black Mts	5/27	1	1	1	1	0.51
Buncombe	5/14	12	43	28	28	0.00
Henderson	5/13	33	25	19	307	0.00
Balsam Mts	5/20	1	1	1	272	0.00
Transylvania	5/13	8	1	2	4	4.95
Semipalmated Plover	1	1	1	1	1	3
Piping Plover	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kildeer	1	1	1	1	1	1
American Oystercatcher	1	1	1	1	1	1
Spotted Sandpiper	3	1	1	1	1	1
Solitary Sandpiper	1	1	1	1	1	1
Greater Yellowlegs	10	1	1	1	1	1
Willet	6	1	1	1	1	1
Lesser Yellowlegs	2	1	1	1	1	1
Whimbrel	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ruddy Turnstone	1	1	1	1	1	1
Red Knot	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sanderling	1	1	1	1	1	1
Semipalmated Sandpiper	3	1	1	1	1	1
Least Sandpiper	6	2	4	3	4	2
White-rumped Sandpiper	6	2	4	3	4	2
Pectoral Sandpiper	3	1	1	1	1	1
						3

		birds per party-hr				
		coastal				
		piedmont				
		mountains				
		total				
	Onslow					
Raven Rock						
		5/13	5/29	5/13	2	0.01
					0.00	0.00
Kerr Lake						
Falls Lake						
		5/12	5/1	2	12	0.01
				2	0.01	0.05
Wake						
Durham						
		5/13	5/1	1	22	0.01
				2	0.02	0.02
Jordan Lake						
Chapel Hill						
		5/7	5/1	3	59	0.01
				4	0.06	0.05
Southern Pines						
Greensboro						
		5/7	5/6	1	1	0.00
				2	0.01	0.05
Forsyth						
Catawba						
		5/13	5/13	1	88	0.01
				2	0.09	0.09
Black Mts						
Buncombe						
		5/27	5/13	1	1692	0.78
				10	1.65	0.31
Henderson						
Balsam Mts						
		5/13	5/13	3	14	0.00
				6	0.01	0.05
Transylvania						
		5/13	5/20	1	201	0.15
				2	0.17	0.15
Black-billed Cuckoo						
Eastern Screech-Owl						
Great Horned Owl						
Barred Owl						
Northern Saw-whet Owl						
Common Nighthawk						
Chuck-will's-widow						
Whip-poor-will						
Chimney Swift						
Ruby-throated Hummingbird						
Belted Kingfisher						
Red-headed Woodpecker						
Red-bellied Woodpecker						
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker						
Downy Woodpecker						
		5/13	5/20	1	3	0.01
				13	0.00	0.00
				19	0.00	0.00
				3	0.01	0.00
				25	0.33	0.07
				36	0.20	0.07
				77	0.20	0.33
				27	0.20	0.33
				40	0.20	0.33
				11	0.12	0.14

Date					birds per party-hr																			
					coastal			piedmont			mountains			total										
					Raven Rock	Kerr Lake	Falls Lake	Onslow	Durham	Jordan Lake	Chapel Hill	Southern Pines	Greensboro	Forsyth	Catawba	Buncombe	Henderson	Balsam Mts	Transylvania					
5/13	5/20	5/13	5/14	5/27	5/13	5/13	5/13	5/13	5/13	5/13	5/13	5/13	5/13	5/13	5/13	5/13	5/13	5/13	5/13					
Hairy Woodpecker	4	8	1	2	4	6	8	6	17	13	8	6	17	13	8	6	4	1	1	95	0.05	0.09	0.02	
Red-cockaded Woodpecker																				4	21	0.00	0.02	0.07
Northern Flicker	9	5	2	10	4	28	19	19	16	18	15	15	8	4	8	11	11	191	0.09	0.17	0.20			
Pileated Woodpecker	28	8	11	16	6	5	4	2	15	22	23	9	5	7	8	8	22	199	0.24	0.12	0.40			
Eastern Wood-Pewee	8	19	4	18	3	6	13	7	17	59	10	6	12	1	1	14	39	237	0.18	0.17	0.71			
Acadian Flycatcher	5	2	4	16	6	1	4	2	11	88	13	4	29	2	9	9	27	232	0.12	0.20	0.49			
Alder Flycatcher		2																	2	0.01	0.00	0.00		
Willow Flycatcher	21	18	25																46	0.16	0.00	0.00		
Least Flycatcher	52	5	22	55	3	8	13	13	20	53	25	27	25	18	15	19		18	0.06	0.00	0.00			
Eastern Phoebe																		373	0.49	0.27	0.00			
Great Crested Flycatcher	8	9	3	15	20	39	123	108	49	43	50	31	39	53	120	710	0.07	0.65	2.18					
Eastern Kingbird	13	1	10	16	27	54	85	52	65	34	64	35	47	68	64	635	0.09	0.62	1.16					
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher										1								1	0.00	0.00	0.00			
Loggerhead Shrike																		32	0.00	0.04	0.00			
White-eyed Vireo	8	1	14	6		1	2	5	9	14	44	14	25	7	12	13	29	229	0.10	0.19	0.53			
Yellow-throated Vireo																		86	0.02	0.08	0.20			

	Date	Location	Species	birds per party-hr																				
				coastal			total																	
				piedmont			mountains																	
				total																				
			Blue-headed Vireo	34	155	3	48	50	3	2	4	8	5	8	15	8	2	348	1.03	0.06	0.04			
			Warbling Vireo	27	65	28	86	21	24	82	117	30	273	135	230	109	146	171	57	28	10	0.03	0.00	0.00
			Red-eyed Vireo																	1629	0.80	1.56	0.51	
			Vireo sp.																	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	
			Blue Jay	84	13	44	85	4	49	111	167	77	155	82	70	69	41	38	67	54	1210	0.82	1.05	0.98
			American Crow	279	65	171	237	10	33	120	243	143	281	265	141	63	133	82	146	93	2505	2.70	1.87	1.69
			Fish Crow																	35	356	0.00	0.36	0.64
			Common Raven	8	20	1	2	3	4	5	34	55	75	18	19	36	20	33	22	35	35	0.12	0.00	0.00
			Crow sp.																	54	54	0.00	0.06	0.00
			Horned Lark																	5	5	0.00	0.01	0.00
			Purple Martin	54	14	23	34	10	5	234	61	57	27	34	78	3	1	23	286	887	0.24	0.61	5.20	
			Tree Swallow	109	1	23	34		3	54	12	31	53	2	68	9				399	0.59	0.26	0.00	
			Northern Rough-winged Swallow	67	3	12	35	23	88	62	35	48	42	33	6	28	28	18	23	551	0.41	0.47	0.42	
			Bank Swallow																	25	0.00	0.03	0.00	
			Cliff Swallow	10	40	27	62	279	1	5	100	167	12	192	39	43	8	15		392	0.04	0.43	0.00	
			Barn Swallow	131	86								55	164	87	148	62	21	135	172	1839	1.37	1.45	3.13
			Carolina Chickadee	72	31	27	92	6	26	100	122	99	341	183	163	102	117	60	51	41	1633	0.81	1.55	0.75
			Black-capped Chickadee	23																23	0.08	0.00	0.00	
			Chickadee sp.	6	30	26	86	4	23	79	87	110	361	183	150	96	116	78	57	42	6	0.02	0.00	0.00
			Tufted Titmouse																	1588	0.73	1.52	0.76	
			Red-breasted Nuthatch	2																65	0.22	0.00	0.00	

	coastal	piedmont	mountains	total		
Onslow					22.00	32.00
Raven Rock					1.25	2.50
Kerr Lake					1.75	2.385
Falls Lake					12.00	18.80
Wake					0.50	6.50
Durham						
Jordan Lake	5/7	5/30	5/13			
Chapel Hill	5/6					
Southern Pines	5/7					
Greensboro	5/6					
Forsyth						
Catawba						
Black Mts						
Buncombe						
Henderson						
Balsam Mts						
Transylvania	5/13	5/14	5/27	5/13		
Date						
					miles	
					canoe/kayak/boat	
					miles by ATV	
					hours owlning	
					miles owlning	
					feeder hours	
					21.00	



Great Blue Heron, 11 Mar 2006, Lake Marion, SC. Photo by Jerry Bright.

General Field Notes

General Field Notes briefly report such items as rare sightings, unusual behaviors, significant nesting records, or summaries of such items.

First, second, or third sightings of species in either state must be submitted to the appropriate Bird Records Committee prior to publication in The Chat.

Four New Reports of the Brown Noddy from South Carolina Waters, Including a Spring Record

Nathan Dias

P.O. Box 362, McClellanville, SC 29458

In South Carolina the Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) was formerly classified as a casual visitor that occurred offshore in late summer or autumn, usually in periods of normal weather. Onshore it was a very rare, usually storm-driven vagrant (Post and Gauthreaux 1989, Post et al. 2004). Prior to 2005, South Carolina had four Brown Noddy specimens and seven acceptable sight reports (Post et. al 2004). Observations made in waters off South Carolina during spring and early summer of 2005 and early summer of 2006 indicate that Brown Noddies occur more frequently than previously believed.

On 28 May 2005 members of a pelagic birding trip that I led encountered an adult Brown Noddy 108 km (67.3 mi) southeast of Fort Sumter along the western edge of the Gulf Stream. The noddy was first sighted at N32° 02' 24.2", W79° 04' 37.1". The noddy was patrolling an extremely large Sargassum weed line whose length was measured in miles. Water depth at this location was 442 m (1450 ft) and water temperature was 26° C (81° F). Other birds in the immediate vicinity were Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*), Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*) and Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*). The observers were N. Dias, L. Glover, C. Snook, C. Feeney, S. Compton, J. B. Hines and W. Hemby. In addition, the noddy was photographed by Compton and Feeney, and these two photographs constitute the fifth material documentation for South Carolina.

On 13 August 2005 during another pelagic birding trip, I encountered an immature Brown Noddy 72.5 km (45 mi) SE of Charleston over 30 m (140 ft) depths, where a ledge drops to 61 m (200 ft) depths. The coordinates for this location are N32° 16' 57.1", W79° 06' 57.9". The bird was in the presence of Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) and Bridled Terns (*Onychoprion anaethetus*). Other observers were L. Glover, S. Calver, C. Snook, J. B. Hines and C. Feeney.

On 17 September 2005, a pelagic birding group composed of N. Dias, J. Sewell, D. Vickers, C. Feeney, J. B. Hines and A. Mercer encountered an immature Brown Noddy 90 km (56 mi) southeast of the Charleston jetties and 141 km (88 mi) east of extreme northern Tybee Island, Georgia. The bird was over water 76 m (250 ft) deep, with a flock of four Cory's Shearwaters, two adult Sooty Terns (*Onychoprion fuscatus*), three immature Sooty Terns and five Bridled Terns. The flock was first sighted in Georgia waters at N32° 00' 45.4", W79° 19' 54.1". The birds were following a school of fish, probably Little Tunny (*Euthynnus alletteratus*), that was driving baitfish to the surface. We lost contact with the flock while on a northeast heading through South Carolina waters (N32° 02' 59.5", W79° 18' 58.1"). The bird flock was followed for about 4 km (2.5 mi).

On 5 August 2006 while on a pelagic sportfishing expedition, I encountered an adult Brown Noddy at N32° 02' 33.9", W78° 48' 02.3", which was 122 km (76 mi) southeast of the Charleston jetties. The noddy was patrolling a Sargassum weed line between the edge of the Gulf Stream and a significant deep-water upwelling. This location is at the southeast end of a 15 km-long sea valley, whose other end lies near the seafloor depression known as the "380 Hole". I obtained a mini-DV format videotape of this bird. This appears to be the sixth material documentation for its occurrence in South Carolina. A (converted) Internet mpeg video file and a frame grab still image may be viewed at the following web address:

<http://www.crbo.net/August06Noddy.html>

These reports indicate that the Brown Noddy occurs off South Carolina as early as late May. Although most sightings still occur in August–September, they are taking place more often than thought previously. I recommend that their offshore status be changed from "casual visitor" to "rare visitor during summer and autumn". Considering that they are still very rarely seen near land, their status there should remain "very rare, usually storm-driven onshore vagrant".

Literature Cited

- Post, W., D. Corkern and I. Pitts, Jr. 2004. A recent South Carolina specimen of the Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*), and a review of the species' regional status. Chat 68:161-166.
- Post, W. and S. A. Gauthreaux. 1988 Status and Distribution of South Carolina Birds. Contributions from the Charleston Museum XVIII.

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

Ricky Davis
608 Smallwood Drive
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
RJDNC@aol.com

(All dates Spring 2006, unless otherwise noted)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter	December 1–February 28	due March 20
Spring	March 1–May 31	due June 20
Summer	June 1–July 31	due August 20
Fall	August 1–November 30	due December 20

Reports can be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you type them and list the sightings according to the birds in checklist order (not according to dates or locations). If you submit your report to me through e-mail, please type your report directly into the message or copy it from a word processing program directly into the message. You may also attach your file to the e-mail, but if you do, please let me know the program used and also send a second version saved as a text (.txt) file.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

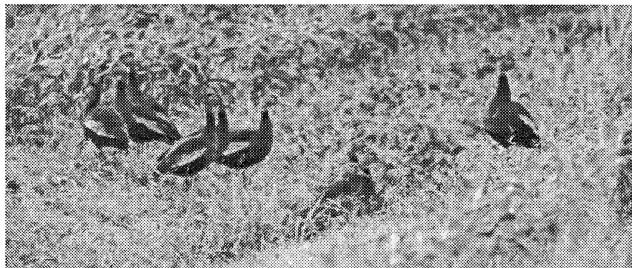
Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: Reports of this duck continue to accumulate in the Carolinas. This spring 11 were in a field in Beaufort County, NC for several days until at least 16 May (Alan Meijer, John Register, Curtis Dykstra), and were considered to be naturally occurring wanderers. Interestingly, 11 were seen flying southward at Isle of Palms, SC

23 May (David Abbott). It is quite possible that this was the same group seen in North Carolina the week before.



Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Beaufort Co., NC, 16 May 2006. Photo by Curtis Dykstra.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: Locally unusual were the seven at Brevard, NC 11–18 March (Tom Joyce) and the single bird at Table Rock St. Pk., SC 2 April (*fide* Scott Stegenga).

AMERICAN WIGEON: Seven at Table Rock St. Pk., SC were considered locally unusual 12 March (Scott Stegenga), while five in Transylvania County, NC 13 May (Nancy Ihha) were somewhat late.

NORTHERN SHOVELER: Two at Brevard, NC 13 May (Betty McIlwain) were late for that mountain locality.

COMMON EIDER: The bird from the winter season at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC was last noted on the very late date of 21 May (Stephen Thomas et al.).

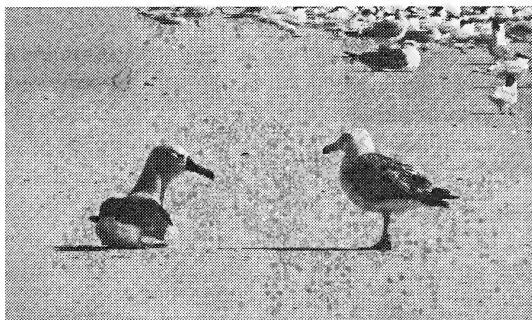
SURF SCOTER: Rare inland in spring were singles at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 3 April (Wayne Forsythe, John Lindfors) and at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC 8 April (Marilyn Westphal, Derek Dawson, Forsythe, Ron Selvey).

COMMON MEGANSER: A pair was a good find in the French Broad R. in the Woodfin area of Buncombe County, NC 27 March, as noted by Vin Stanton. Also one at Brevard, NC 19 April (Tom Joyce) was locally unusual.

COMMON LOON: Mountain area transients noted included seven at L. Julian, NC 21 April (Marilyn Westphal, Derek Dawson), one at Brevard, NC 13 May (Betty McIlwain et al.), and one at L. Julian 20 May (Wayne Forsythe).

EARED GREBE: The salt pond at C. Hatteras Point, NC harbored several Eareds this winter, and one was still present at least until 4 March (Jeff Pippen and Ricky Davis).

YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS: North Carolina's third documented Yellow-nosed Albatross was photographed while it sat on the beach near C. Hatteras Point 11 April (Neal & Pat Moore, Joe Byrnes, Bunny & Jimmie Doolittle, Marcia Lyons). Of interest is the fact that the second was also at that location and on the same date two years earlier—11 April, 2004!



Yellow-nosed Albatross (with Great Black-backed Gull), Cape Hatteras Point, NC, 11 April 2006. Photo by Joe Byrnes.

HERALD PETREL: This spring's Herald Petrel sightings included singles off Hatteras, NC 14, 20, and 28 May, while one to two were seen 24 May and two were seen 25 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Also one was found out of Oregon Inlet, NC 27 May (BPI).

BERMUDA PETREL: Sightings of this rare species have become annual off North Carolina the last several years. This spring one was found off Hatteras 23 May (BPI).

FEA'S PETREL: This spring provided more sightings than usual of Fea's Petrel off North Carolina. Off Hatteras singles were noted 20, 21, and 30 May, while two were seen 28 May, and an impressive one-day count of three was had 31 May (Brian Patteson Inc.). Also, one was noted out of Oregon Inlet 29 May (BPI).

SOOTY SHEARWATER: One off Hatteras, NC 18 March was extremely early (BPI). This bird normally does not show up in numbers in our waters until May.

MANX SHEARWATER: One of the best counts of this species off North Carolina was had this early spring when 60+ were noted off Hatteras 18 March (BPI). Late spring migrants included one off Hatteras 14 May, three to four off Hatteras 29 May, and one off Hatteras 31 May (BPI).

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: One was sighted along a cruise ship off C. Hatteras, NC 27 May (Barbara & Alan Delorey). The distinctive color and "kangaroo hop" style of movement was easily noted at close range. This provided the earliest date for that state by almost a whole month!

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL: One to two were excellent finds out of Oregon Inlet, NC 29 May (BPI). After last spring's string of sightings, one can't help but wonder if this species has been overlooked among the many Wilson's Storm-Petrels on many a spring trip!

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: Three were noted off Hatteras, NC 30 May for the only spring report this year (BPI).

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD: This season's Red-billed reports involved a subadult off Hatteras, NC 17 May, an immature off Hatteras 22 May, and one out of Oregon Inlet, NC 29 May (BPI).

BROWN BOOBY: The southeastern coast of North Carolina had its first Brown Booby when an immature was photographed on East Beach at Bald Head Island 25–26 April (Maureen Dewire, Robin Moran). Previous sightings of this species have been from the central and northern beaches and offshore.

NORTHERN GANNET: While regularly found in Pamlico Sound, two were unusual upriver at Goose Creek St. Pk., NC 7 March (Curtis Dykstra).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: This species continued its steady increase in numbers in the Carolinas. The best counts included 49 in flight over L. Mattamuskeet, NC 15 March (David & Susan Disher) and 28 on Bulls Is., C. Romain NWR, SC 18 March (Nathan Dias). Noteworthy inland reports involved up to eight in the Jordan L., NC area 5–14 April (Andrei Podolsky, Alan Johnston et al., Judy Murray et al., Judy Elzinga et al.), five at Falls L., NC 16 April (Ricky Davis), and one over the lake at the NC Zoo south of Asheboro, Randolph County 17 April (Stan Alford).

BROWN PELICAN: Very unusual inland, an impressive count of seven Brown Pelicans was at L. Murray, SC 11 May, as noted by Irvin Pitts and Amy Dobson. Usually only single birds have been found wandering away from the beaches.

ANHINGA: Anhingas continue to be found at inland sites. The farthest inland was over Bakers Mt., Catawba County, NC 13 May (John Sutton, *fide* Dwayne Martin). Other wanderers included one over NC 147 in Durham County, NC 28 April (Dan Kaplan), two over Middle Creek Bottomland, nw. Johnston County, NC twice during May (Erik Thomas), and two at a beaver pond in the upper White Oak Creek area of Jordan L., NC during April and May (Merrill Lynch). Also, a new inland nesting location with at least ten nests was discovered at Rocky Swamp, just west of I-95 in Halifax County, NC 25 May (Frank Enders).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: There was a good influx of this annual visitor to the Carolinas this spring. On North Carolina's Outer Banks, several were noted with one over Kill Devil Hills 22 April (Jeff Lewis), an immature at Buxton 15 May (Ned Brinkley), a male at Hatteras Inlet 18 May (Curtis Dykstra), a female in the Frisco–Hatteras area 20–21 May (m. obs.), an adult male offshore of Oregon Inlet 20 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.), and an immature at Buxton 24–26 May (Lex Glover, Bob & Deb Zaremba, Earl Horn, sev. obs.). Elsewhere single frigatebirds were over Core Sound, near Davis, Carteret County, NC 30 May (Bob Austin, *fide* John Fussell) and at Sullivan's Is., SC 27 May (Willy Hutcheson).

AMERICAN BITTERN: One at a marsh near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC 15–16 April provided a noteworthy local spring report for the mountains (Marilyn Westphal, Wayne Forsythe).

GREAT BLUE HERON: Two nests in the Brevard, NC area this spring (Tom Joyce, sev. obs.) represented the farthest west that this species has been found nesting in the Carolinas.

SNOWY EGRET: Interesting spring reports away from the eastern part of the Carolinas included one at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC 21 April

(Wayne Forsythe), one near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC 22 April (Forsythe, Ron Selvey), one along a tributary that runs into L. Wylie, York County, SC 13 May (Chris Huffstickler), one at the NC 54 Impoundment, Chapel Hill, NC 27 May (Clyde Smith), and one along Crabtree Creek, Raleigh, NC 16 April (John Connors).

LITTLE BLUE HERON: Noteworthy spring sightings of Little Blue Heron involved singles at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 8 April (Connie Ward et al., Bob Olthoff), at the Horace Williams Tract, Chapel Hill, NC 9 April (Rob Gluck), and one along Crabtree Creek, Raleigh, NC 16 April (John Connors).

REDDISH EGRET: This species is much less expected in the Carolinas during spring. This year's Reddish Egrets were at Bulls Is., C. Romain NWR, SC 18 March (*fide* Nathan Dias) and at Bear Is. WMA, SC 8 April (Dias).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: An immature Black-crowned was a good find off Rte. 191 in Henderson County, NC 4 May (Marilyn Westphal, Bob Olthoff).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: One at the Santee Coastal Reserve, SC 20 May (Nathan Dias) was a good find for the spring season.

WOOD STORK: An interesting sighting was of one over the Black River near Clear Run in southern Sampson County, NC 11 May, as noted by Gil Grant.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: One of the first returning spring Swallow-taileds was noted in the Francis Marion Nat. Forest, SC 16 March (Nathan Dias). On North Carolina's Outer Banks, this spring's sightings involved one at the campground on Ocracoke Is. (Kristin Sinclair, *fide* Jeff Beane) and four at Pea Is. NWR (Beane, Todd Pusser), both 15 April.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: Very early Mississippi were found at Congaree Swamp Nat. Park, SC 28 March (Robin Carter, Terry Hamilton) and at Columbia, SC 30 March (Caroline Eastman). One over Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 29 May (Ron Selvey, John Lindfors) provided a rare report for that mountain locality.

NORTHERN HARRIER: One at Tanglewood Park, Clemmons, NC 13 May (*fide* Linda Davis) was considered to be rather late for that locality.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: One over the NC Zoo, Randolph County, NC 25 March (Andrei Podolsky) was rather early for a spring migrant. Also one at Hoffman St. For., Onslow County, NC 13 May (Rich & Susan Boyd) was considered locally uncommon for that Coastal Plain locality.

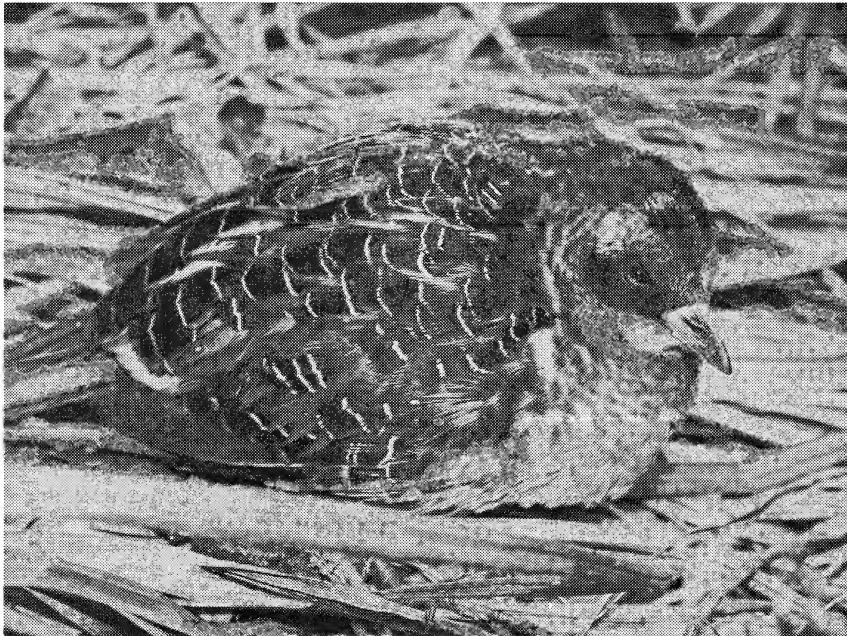
RED-TAILED HAWK: A Red-tailed brought to a rehabber in Forsyth County, NC 16 March (Bob & Jean Chamberlain) appeared to be a dark phase "Western" form. The bird apparently died 22 March. Individuals of this form are very rarely reported from the Carolinas.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: The wintering Rough-legged at Alligator R. NWR, NC was last noted 3 March by Ricky Davis and Jeff Pippen.

GOLDEN EAGLE: There were two reports this spring, with an adult at the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway 27 March (Gene Howe) and one near Sparta, Alleghany County, NC 2 April (*fide* Eric Dean).

MERLIN: Good spring sightings included one at Winston-Salem, NC 27 March (Tim Lewis), one at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 8 April (Marilyn Westphal, Derek Dawson), and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC 1 May (Steve Calver, Robin Carter, Dennis Forsythe) being somewhat late for that southern coastal locality.

YELLOW RAIL: Very unexpected was the apparently tired Yellow Rail picked up in a mowed hayfield near Rutherfordton, Rutherford County, NC 28 April. The bird was ultimately taken to Jim Petranka in Asheville, NC where it was released at a local marshy area (*fide* Marilyn Westphal). There are very few reports of this species from the foothills of that state.



Yellow Rail, Rutherfordton, NC, 28 April 2006. Photo by Jim Petranka.

CLAPPER RAIL: One was found dead in downtown Goldsboro, NC 27 April (Eric Dean). This was not the first specimen from that inland locality, thereby reinforcing the fact that this species does move away from the immediate coast on a regular basis.

VIRGINIA RAIL: Interesting mountain reports involved one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 16–20 March (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe) and one 4 feet off the ground in a rhododendron thicket(!) along the road up to Craggy Gardens, Buncombe County, NC 14 May (Tom & Barbara Driscoll; Marilyn Westphal et al.).

SORA: Noteworthy mountain area sightings included one at Hospital Fields, Transylvania County, NC 30 March (Betty McIlwain), one at Fletcher Park,

Fletcher, Henderson County, NC 28–29 April (sev. obs., CBC meeting participants), and one near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC 24 May (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), which was rather late.

PURPLE GALLINULE: One was again seen in the Sunset Beach, NC area when it was at L. Medcalf on the mainland 15 April (Taylor Piephoff). This species has been very hard to find in North Carolina for some time and any sightings are worth mentioning.

COMMON MOORHEN: A rare and locally unusual sighting was had at the eastern end of the White Oak Creek arm of Jordan L., NC 7 May, as noted by Ginger Travis.

AMERICAN COOT: This species lingered in the Carolinas in higher-than-normal numbers as evidenced by the 35 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 16 May (Paul Sykes, John Seginak) and 280 at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 21 May (Ricky Davis).

SANDHILL CRANE: Very unusual was the flock of 12–14 migrating Sandhill Cranes high over I-40 in Durham County, NC 2 March (Tom Driscoll). The normal migration corridor of this species is through Georgia, and it is quite unexpected to have a flock of this size that far to the east. Also somewhat east of the usual migration path were four over northwest Greenville County, SC 16 March (Jeff Catlin) and two flying past Devil's Courthouse, NC 23 April (Marilyn Westphal). Also unusual were single lingering Sandhills near the coast where one was in a yard(!) at Harrells, Sampson County, NC 1 May (*fide* John Ennis) and one was in the New Bern–Vanceboro area of Craven County, NC 12–13 May (*fide* John Fussell). The bird, being very tame, was captured and taken to a local rehabber who released the bird in the Croatan Nat. Forest 16 May.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: The rare-in-spring American Golden-Plover was reported three times this season, with singles at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 22 March (Bob Olthoff), at the Savannah NWR, SC 28 March (*fide* Steve Holzman), and at Mason Inlet, Wrightsville Beach, NC 19 April (John Ennis).

SNOWY PLOVER: One was present in the C. Hatteras point area from 25 May (Bill Langley) until early June (m. obs.). This bird provided only the second record for North Carolina and was the first to be documented. Interestingly, the bird exhibited very strong territorial behavior and chased most birds that came near it.

WILSON'S PLOVER: Locally unusual were the single at C. Hatteras, NC 28 May (Sidney Maddock et al.) and the pair at Oregon Inlet, NC during late May into June (National Park Service personnel).

WILLET: One found at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 28–30 April (Simon Thompson et al., m. obs.) was only about the fifth report for the mountains.

UPLAND SANDPIPER: There were few sightings of this sandpiper in the Carolinas this spring. Three were near Townville, SC 9 April (Jim Edwards, Jane Chew, Bing Somers), seven were at Hooper Lane, NC 9 April (Wayne Forsythe), and one was there 19 April (Jon Smith).

WHIMBREL: Two were excellent finds at L. Wheeler, Wake County, NC; 22 May (Dave Lenat, Steve Shultz). Inland reports of this species are quite rare during the spring migration.

MARBLED GODWIT: A flock of 11 Marbled Godwits at L. Julian, NC 19 April (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, Marilyn Westphal, John Lindfors) was most unexpected and provided only the second report for the mountains.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: The only inland reports received involved six at the Winston-Salem, NC WTP 13 May (David & Susan Disher, Paul Powers) and 15+ near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC 23 May (Wayne Forsythe).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: This species is very rare anywhere in the Carolinas during the spring season since the normal migration route is through the middle of the continent. Surprisingly, two reports were received this spring. One was in the mountains near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC 23 May (Wayne Forsythe) and one was along the coast at Pea Is. NWR, NC 26 May (Doug Pratt, David Armstrong *fide* Nathan Dias). The Henderson County bird was about the third mountain spring report, while the Pea Is. bird represented only the second coastal spring sighting for that state.

DUNLIN: One provided a noteworthy inland spring report near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC 28 March (Wayne Forsythe).

STILT SANDPIPER: Good numbers were found in coastal South Carolina this spring with 60+ at the Santee Coastal Res., Charleston County 30 April and 395 on South Is., Yawkey Wildlife Center, Georgetown County 13 May (Nathan Dias et al.).

RUFF: Following the Ruff in Colleton County, SC during late February, several more sightings were made of this normally unexpected spring visitor. A male was found on Bulls Is., C. Romain NWR, SC 18 March (Nathan Dias), a female was at the Santee Coastal Res., SC 30 April (Willy Hutcheson, Nathan Dias et al.), and a female, possibly the same individual, was noted on South Is., SC 13 May (Dias et al.).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Only two were mentioned this spring, with singles being noted at the Yawkey Wildlife Center, SC 23 April (Burton Moore, Nathan Dias, Bruce Peterjohn, Chuck Hocevar) and near Savannah NWR, SC 7 May (Diana Churchill).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: One was a good find onshore at C. Hatteras Point, NC 19 May, as noted by Curtis Dykstra et al.

RED PHALAROPE: Good numbers were found offshore of North Carolina during March with 208+ off Hatteras on 5 March and 670 off Hatteras on 18 March (Brian Patteson Inc.). Also one off Hatteras 17 May (BPI) was quite late, as most Reds are gone from the area by May.

CALIFORNIA GULL: An adult California was a good find on the pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC 5 March (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

HERRING GULL: An adult Herring Gull was found along the New River at the Fulton Reeves Rd. area south of the 221 Access unit of New River St. Pk., Ashe County, NC 20 May (David & Susan Disher). This species is quite

hard to come by in the mountains, thus this sighting seems all the more remarkable when one considers the date and location.

ICELAND GULL: The only ones mentioned were the two (one adult, one first-winter) on the Hatteras, NC pelagic trip 5 March (Brian Patteson Inc.).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: One was locally unusual far inland at Rock Hill, SC 25 March, as noted by Tim Allison.

SABINE'S GULL: One was a complete surprise being briefly seen as it flew from the beach out to sea at C. Hatteras, NC 26 May (Bruce Peterjohn, Nathan Dias et al.).

LEAST TERN: A couple of sightings away from the immediate coast involved one at a borrow pit south of the Lee County, SC landfill 13 May (Robin Carter) and one at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 21 May (Ricky Davis).

CASPIAN TERN: Numbers at inland locales seemed down this spring. The best counts included five at L. Thurmond, SC 15 April (Jason Giovannone et al.), six at Falls L., NC 16 April (Ricky Davis), and four at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC 19–21 April (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal, Derek Dawson).

BLACK TERN: Three at Bulls Is., C. Romain NWR, SC 18 March (Nathan Dias) were rather early spring migrants for our area.

ROSEATE TERN: One noted off Hatteras, NC 13 May provided a rare offshore sighting for that state (Brian Patteson Inc.).

COMMON TERN: One at Falls L., NC 6 April (Brian Bockhahn) was somewhat early for that inland locality.

FORSTER'S TERN: Good inland numbers included 15 at L. Thurmond, SC 15 April (Jason Giovannone et al.), four to five at L. Julian, NC 19–21 April (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal, Derek Dawson), and 12 near Brevard, NC 19 April (Tom Joyce). Also two on the New River at Farmer's Fish Camp, Alleghany County, NC 11 May (Harrol Blevins) were locally quite unusual.

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: It was a poor spring for this species off North Carolina as only one was found during the multitude of pelagic trips, that being off Hatteras 31 May (Brian Patteson Inc.).

PARASITIC JAEGER: One was a good find close to shore at Wrightsville Beach, NC 11 March, as noted by Patrick Coin. Late spring offshore sightings included singles of Hatteras 11 May and off Manteo 20 and 29 May (Brian Patteson Inc.).

COMMON MURRE: An adult female Common Murre was found on the beach at Folly Beach, SC on the extraordinary date of 2 May. The bird died in captivity two weeks later and the specimen went to the Charleston Museum (*vide* Will Post). This was the third report for that state and represented the southernmost confirmed record for the Atlantic coast!

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Only two reports were received this spring with two at a previously known location in a yard in Beaufort, NC 31 March (Susan Boyd) and one at a feeder in Nags Head, NC 24 April (Skip Morgan, Jeff Lewis).



White-winged Dove, Nags Head, NC, 24 April 2006. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: There were a good number of sightings of this retiring species this spring. Mountain sightings included one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 9 and 25 May (Tom Joyce, Ron Selvey), one along the road to Craggy Gardens, NC 14 May (Tom Driscoll et al.), and one at Sparta Bog, Alleghany County, NC 17 May (Jeff Beane, Jonathan Mays, Todd Pusser, Tom Thorp). Coastal reports involved one at Ft. Fisher, NC 3 May (Greg Massey), one at Cedar Is. NWR, NC 21 May (John Fussell, Jack Fennell), one at Buxton, NC 26 May (Lex Glover, Bob & Deb Zaremba, Earl Horn), and one at C. Hatteras Point, NC 28 May (Jeff Lewis, Wayne Irvin, Derb Carter, Ricky Davis). Elsewhere Black-billeds were good finds along the Lower Saluda, Columbia, Richland County, SC 10 May (Jason Giovannone) and along the Six Mile Creek Greenway in southern Mecklenburg County, NC 22 May (Chris Huffstickler).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: There were two extremely early sightings of Yellow-billed Cuckoo this spring. One was seen and heard at Davidson, NC 9 March (Tomm Lorenzin) and one was also seen and heard near Meggett, SC 11 March (Nathan Dias).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: Noteworthy mountain area reports included calling birds at Glen Cannon, Transylvania County, NC 13 April (Norma Siebenheller), at Black Mountain, NC 23 April (Stu Gibeau), and at Valle Crucis, Watauga County, NC 21 May (Rob Biller, Tom and J. T. McNeil).

WHIP-POOR-WILL: One was somewhat early at the Congaree Nat. Park, SC 9 March (Robin Carter).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Rather unusual were the two, one an adult male, which showed up in a yard in Morehead City, NC during the first week of April; no doubt spring migrants (John Fussell).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: Reports of this scarce migrant are always noteworthy. This spring's sightings involved single Olive-siders along

Panther Top Rd., Murphy, NC 12 May (Steve Kilpatrick), along Persimmon Ridge Rd. in n. Greenville County, SC 13 May (Jeff Catlin), along Gaines Rd., Townville, SC 16 May (Linda Kolb), one near Busick, Yancey County, NC 17 May (Greg Massey), and one along Six Mile Creek Greenway, s. Mecklenburg County, NC 22–23 May (Chris Huffstickler, John Buckman).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE: One was somewhat early at Congaree Nat. Park, SC 14 April, as noted by Robin Carter.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: One seen and heard at Orton Pond, Brunswick County, NC 24 April (Greg Massey) provided a very rare and unexpected spring report for that coastal locality.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: Locally unusual spring sightings involved singing Willows near Weldon, Halifax County, NC 1 May (Frank Enders) and at Long Leaf Pine Heritage Preserve, SC 7 May (Robin Carter et al.). Not as unexpected but still noteworthy were one along Shimpock Rd., Cabarrus County, NC 16–30 May (John Buckman) and two at Concord Mills, Cabarrus County, NC 24 May (Alan Kneidel).

EASTERN PHOEBE: One found nesting under a bridge near Albertson in e. Duplin County, NC 29 May (Gil Grant) was quite far to the east for a nesting record of this piedmont and mountains breeder.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: One found in a field near Southern Pines, NC on the Spring Count 7 May (Wayne Irvin, Scott Hartley, sev. obs.), remained throughout the month and on into the summer, for a most interesting occurrence.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: One was rather early at Fayetteville, NC 13 March, as noted by Bob Perkins.

WARBLING VIREO: Two found at Charleston, SC 7 May (Craig Watson, Melissa Bimbi) were extremely unusual for that coastal locality for the spring season. One was a good find along the McMullen Creek Greenway, s. Mecklenburg County, NC 22 May, as noted by Alan Kneidel. Also of interest were the three territorial males located at a beaver pond area near Concord, Cabarrus County, NC 2 May until the end of the month (Taylor Piephoff, Alan Kneidel, John Buckman). Breeding away from the northwest part of the state is quite localized and rarely noted.

FISH CROW: Good mountain sightings included one at L. Julian, NC 3 April (Wayne Forsythe) and one at Hooper Lane, NC 29 April (Forsythe, Ricky Davis). This species is continuing to increase in much of the western portion of the state during the breeding season, still mostly along river systems.

COMMON RAVEN: More Common Ravens were found east of the mountains this spring with singles in Person County, NC 30 March (Harry LeGrand, Jr.), at River Park North, Greenville, NC 26 April (Josh Southern), and just e. of L. Norman St. Pk., NC 29 May (Tomm Lorenzin).

BANK SWALLOW: Fifteen Bank Swallows provided an excellent local count for spring at Hooper Lane, NC 18 May, as noted by Wayne Forsythe.

CLIFF SWALLOW: Three at Hooper Lane, NC 18 May were considered unusual for that locality (Wayne Forsythe).

CAVE SWALLOW: Cave Swallows spent the winter in the Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC area and “several” were still there until at least 22 March (Phil Turner et al.).

SEDGE WREN: Noteworthy spring mountain reports involved two at Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC 7 May (Lou Weber, Jamie Owens *fide* Marilyn Westphal), up to five different ones at two sites near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC until at least 14 May (Westphal, Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff), and one at Boone Fork, Price Park, Watauga County, NC 13 May (Steve Shultz et al.).

MARSH WREN: Four were at a marsh near the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC 12–13 May (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal et al.), while another one was at a site farther up the river 5–6 May (Westphal et al.). Also one was a good find at Hospital Fields, Transylvania County, NC in early May (*fide* Norma Siebenheller).

SWAINSON’S THRUSH: Four provided an impressive count at Winnabow, Brunswick County, NC on the early date of 24 April, as noted by Greg Massey. Also one was somewhat late at Mt. Mitchell, NC 27 May (Marilyn Westphal).

HERMIT THRUSH: A good count of 17 Hermits was made at Mt. Mitchell, NC 27 May (Marilyn Westphal). This species is a regular summering bird in that area.

“BREWSTER’S” WARBLER: Two reports of this Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler hybrid were mentioned this spring. One was at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC 21 April (Alan Kneidel) and one was at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 23–24 April (Paul Super, Wayne Forsythe et al.).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Several early spring reports away from the Coastal Plain included one at Little River Park, Durham, NC 26 March (Andrei Podolsky), one in s. Charlotte, NC 2 April (John Buckman), and one at Winston-Salem, NC 11 April (David & Susan Disher). Some or all of these could have represented locally wintering individuals and not true migrants.

NASHVILLE WARBLER: Noteworthy spring reports away from the mountains included singles at Charlotte, NC 25 April (Taylor Piephoff) and Winston-Salem, NC 4 May (Ferenc Domoki).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: One at Ft. Fisher, NC 21 April was a good find for the spring season at that coastal locality (Greg Massey).

CAPE MAY WARBLER: A Cape May found singing in Georgetown County, SC 16 May (Jack Peachey, Bob & Judy Maxwell) provided a locally uncommon spring report.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: Two were at Mt. Mitchell, NC 27 May (Marilyn Westphal), but since this area has hosted summering individuals the last several years it is possible they were not just late migrants.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: One was somewhat early at Congaree Nat. Park, SC 16 March (Robin Carter), as most early spring migrants do not show up in the Carolinas until the last week of March. Much

more intriguing was the Black-throated Green that was present and “apparently on territory” at Raven Rock St. Pk., Harnett County, NC 17–25 May (Paul Hart). This Piedmont location is quite some distance from the usual mountain breeding range.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: Another early returning breeder was the Yellow-throated Warbler singing in e. Chatham County, NC 9 March (Merrill Lynch), about two weeks early for that location.

PRAIRIE WARBLER: One in w. Raleigh, NC 17–20 March (Andrei Podolsky) was either an early migrant or a wandering wintering individual.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: Good spring reports near the coast, where usually hard to get, involved one near the Neuse R., w. Craven County, NC 12 May (Wade Fuller) and a late one at C. Hatteras, NC 30 May (Jan St. Jean).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: One was late at C. Hatteras, NC 30 May, as noted by Jan St. Jean.

CERULEAN WARBLER: Any reports of Ceruleans away from the breeding areas in the mountains or along the Roanoke River are worth mentioning. This spring one was a good find along the Tar R., Person County, NC 10 May (Harry LeGrand, Jr.).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: One at Buxton Woods, NC 4 March (Ricky Davis, Jeff Pippen, Ken Allen) was most likely a wintering individual; it was too early for a spring migrant.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: Prothonotary Warblers in the western portion of North Carolina, where scarce, included one early at Riverbend Park, Catawba County 25 March (*fide* Dwayne Martin), one at French Broad River Park, Asheville 17 April (Marilyn Westphal), and several in Henderson County at Jackson Park and along the French Broad River 23 April–17 May (Westphal, Wayne Forsythe, sev. obs.).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: Noteworthy reports from areas between the mountains and coastal plain breeding ranges involved one at Charlotte, NC 21 May until the early summer, and two in s. Mecklenburg County, NC 22 May until the summer (Taylor Piephoff, sev. obs.).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Two reports of this rare spring migrant included one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 13 May (Wayne Forsythe) and one at Hospital Fields, Transylvania County, NC 14 May (Tom Joyce).

MOURNING WARBLER: Reports of this species involved one at Hospital Fields, Transylvania County, NC 4 May (Elizabeth Galloway) and 14 May (Norma Siebenheller), one at Jackson Park, NC 21–27 May (Ron Selvey, Tom Cameron), one at Six Mile Creek Greenway, s. Mecklenburg County, NC 22 May (Taylor Piephoff), and one at Hamilton Lakes Park, Greensboro, NC 23–25 May (Henry Link, Melissa Whitmire, sev. obs.).

WILSON'S WARBLER: One found on James Is., Charleston County, SC 15 April (David Abbott) was either an early migrant or a locally wintering individual.

CANADA WARBLER: One at Cedar Is NWR, NC 21 May (John Fussell, Jack Fennell) provided a locally unusual spring sighting for that coastal locality.

SUMMER TANAGER: The Summer Tanager that wintered at Whispering Pines, Moore County, NC was last seen 8 March (Susan Campbell).

WESTERN TANAGER: The Western Tanager present from the winter at a feeder in York County, SC was last noted 12 March (Jason Giovannone, Lex Glover, Steve Patterson). Also one was a surprise in a yard in Southern Pines, NC 1 April, as noted by Wayne & Fran Irvin.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: One was photographed at a feeder in Lexington County, SC 1–2 May (Amy Dobson) for a locally rare and unusual spring report.

LARK SPARROW: Three were noted to be “on territory” at the usual Ft. Bragg, NC drop zones during the Southern Pines Spring Count 7 May (Susan Campbell).

HENSLOW’S SPARROW: One was very rare and unusual in the mountains at Glen Cannon, Transylvania County, NC 19 April (Norma Siebenheller).

LINCOLN’S SPARROW: Rare spring sightings involved one in w. Raleigh, NC 15 March (Andrei Podolsky) and one at Hospital Fields, Transylvania County, NC 2 May (Norma Siebenheller et al.).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: Quite late for the coast were one at Pea Is. NWR, NC 9 May (Bob Anderson) and two at Southport, NC 18 May (Greg Massey).

INDIGO BUNTING: A female-plumaged Indigo was at a feeder in Chapel Hill, NC 12 March (Helmut Mueller) for a very early spring report.

PAINTED BUNTING: A male was present at a feeder in Kinston, NC from late February until 25 March (Betty Grady), providing an unusual wintering report away from the immediate coast.

DICKCISSEL: Reports of Dickcissels were down this year. The most interesting reports included four along Gaines Rd., Townville, SC 16 May (Linda Kolb) and six at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 7 May (John Fussell, Jack Fennell), both from areas that have hosted the species in the past.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK: One was rather unusual (location and elevation) on Mt. Mitchell, NC 27 May, as noted by Marilyn Westphal.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD: One was somewhat late at Jackson Park, NC 30 April (Taylor Piephoff, Ricky Davis).

BULLOCK’S ORIOLE: The male Bullock’s from the winter at a feeder near the Haw River n. of Pittsboro in Chatham County, NC was still present as late as 7 March (Susan Campbell).



Summer Tanager,
Whispering Pines, NC,
8 March 2006. Photo
by Frank Ripp.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: Nesting reports away from the usual northern mountains areas are always noteworthy. This spring a pair was building a nest along Shimpock Rd. at Coddle Creek Res., Cabarrus County, NC 16 May, and the female was observed incubating until the end of the month (John Buckman).

RED CROSSBILL: This spring's Red Crossbill sightings involved five at the feeders at the Snowbird Lodge, Graham County, NC 3–4 May (Simon Thompson), 18 in a flock near Mt. Mitchell, NC 27 May (*vide* Marilyn Westphal), and five near there at Balsam Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway 29 May (Wayne Forsythe).

BIRDS OF THE CAROLINAS RESEARCH & PROGRAMMING GRANTS

The Carolina Bird Club, Ornithological Society of the Carolinas, announces the availability of funds to support student research concerning North and/or South Carolina birds or secondary school programming designed to promote an interest by students in birds. We anticipate that up to four awards will be made to institutions in North and South Carolina to support research projects or bird-related programming. Awards are generally \$500, but application may be made for other amounts.

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Awardees must file a final report, including an accounting of expenditures and a summary of research or programming, no later than 45 days following the close of the grant period. Any unused funds must be returned to CBC no later than 45 days following the close of the grant period. Significant research findings will be reviewed for possible publication in *The Chat*.

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis for review by the Executive Committee.

Email completed applications or inquiries to:

Dana Harris, CBC Headquarters Secretary
hq@carolinabirdclub.org

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SC Members-at-Large:	J. Drew Lanham, Clemson, SC	lanhamj@clemson.edu
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Dana Harris, 6325 Falls of the Neuse Road, STE 9 PMB 150, Raleigh NC 27615
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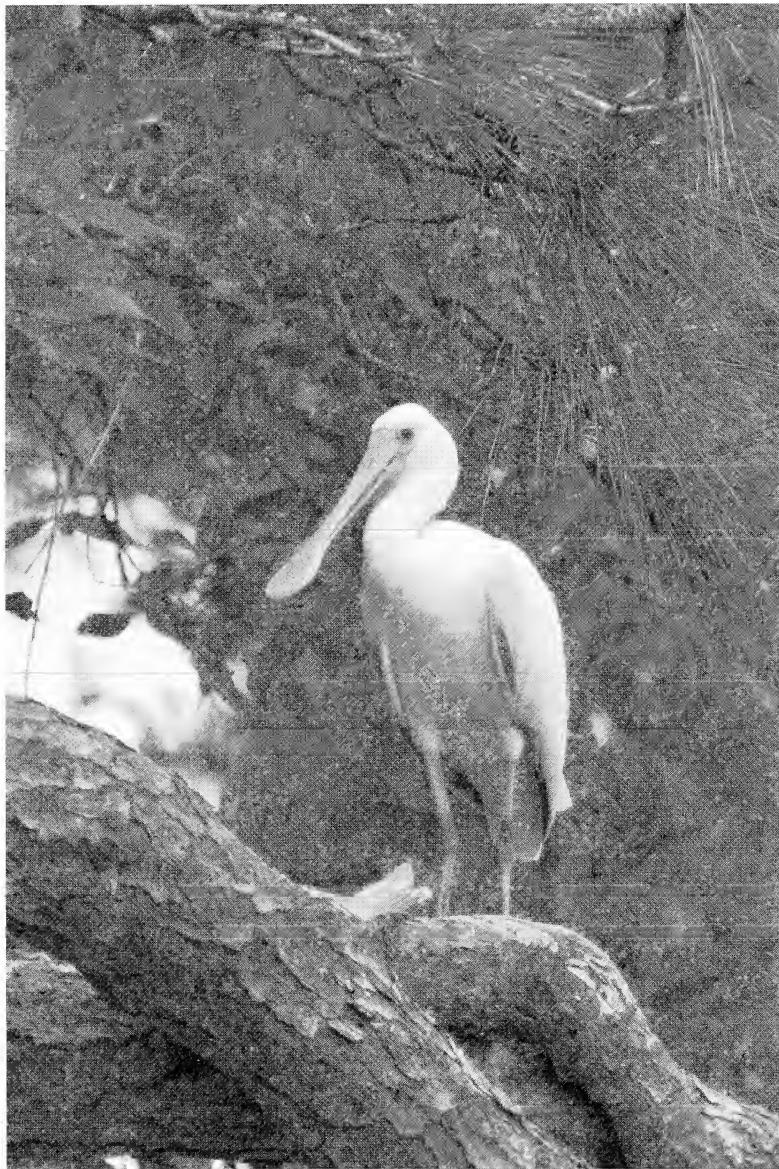
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Editor

Kent Fiala, 1714 Borland Road
Hillsborough, NC 27278
chat@carolinabirdclub.org

General Field Notes Editors

North Carolina

Will Cook

South Carolina

William Post

Briefs for the Files

Ricky Davis

Associate Editor

Ginger Travis

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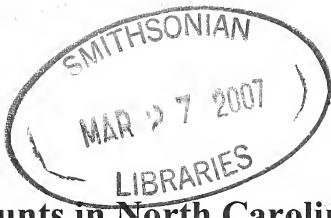
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Six Decades of Migration Counts in North Carolina

Marilyn Westphal

230 Park Lane, Hendersonville, NC 28791

Introduction

"Might the day come when Turkeys are easier to come by than Northern Bobwhites?" This was a question posed by John Fussell (1993) in his analysis of the 1992 spring bird count. His prediction may soon come true. This report analyzes population changes of these two species, as well as several others, based on data from spring bird counts in North Carolina from the 1950s through the current year. With the exception of the 1980s, spring count data were published in *The Chat* almost every year from the early 1950s through the current year. Thanks to Peggy Ferebee, even the data from the missing years have been located and are included in this report. Because of the extensive amount of time it takes to enter all of the data into a file for easy analysis, only three years of each decade were selected for comparison. In most cases these are the fourth, fifth, and sixth years, but in two cases where data were missing, another year close to that period (1952 instead of 1954, and 1983 instead of 1984) was selected.

Not all counts that were completed each year have been included. Only those with consistent coverage throughout the six decades were selected. Only consistent count areas were selected because including different count areas each year can introduce additional regional bias. In the case of the piedmont, the count areas include Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, Greensboro, Winston-Salem (Forsyth), and, on the edge of the piedmont/coastal plain, Southern Pines. None of these count areas except Greensboro includes data from every year, but they all have counts from most years. No coastal count areas were consistently covered throughout this entire period, but Wilmington was the most consistent until recently, and Onslow County has been in recent years. No mountain counts were conducted in the 1950s and 1960s, but the Brevard and Buncombe counts from the 1970s to present were included. Although all of these small inconsistencies affect some results to a certain extent, all species analyzed for statewide trends are those that occur regularly, and in most cases somewhat uniformly, statewide.

Of course many factors, including variations in coverage from year to year, weather, variations in birding skills, and improved equipment in later years, complicate analysis over time. To reduce some of the variables the same counts were used every decade and comparisons were made on birds per party-hour (a.k.a. per field-hour) rather than total birds. Birds per party-hour are calculated by dividing the total number of each species by the total time in hours in the field of all groups or "parties" of birders in the count. This reduces variations that occur because of greater participation in any

given year. Three years each decade, rather than just one, were used to reduce variations that occur because of inclement weather during any particular count. Nonetheless, there are always factors for which it is difficult to compensate. It is assumed that variation in birding skills has always existed and balances out over time. Also, variations in specific count areas can occur because of birders' knowledge of a count area, but often this information is passed on to successive birders. It is also assumed that birders have always had the tendency to seek out certain species to increase total species count. Thus, for some species that may be declining in recent years, birders probably seek out areas where they know these species still exist. So the extent of population change is difficult to assess from spring counts.

A few common birds have been included for comparison in this analysis to provide "control" species for which little change over time was expected. Population changes over time for some species are quite dramatic and probably indicate real gains or losses. Other changes are less significant. All changes can be tested using other survey methods, and in some cases these will be noted. However, this article focuses specifically on results from spring counts. In most cases, speculations on reasons for population changes are left for other studies.

Results and Discussion

The first pair of species analyzed are the two that John Fussell remarked about in 1992, the Northern Bobwhite and Wild Turkey (Fig. 1). The Northern Bobwhite population has been greatly affected by loss of habitat.

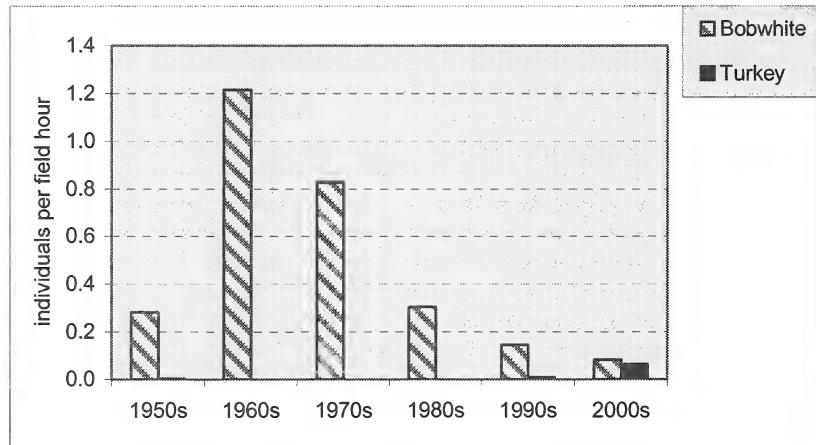


Figure 1: Northern Bobwhite and Wild Turkey—Statewide

Northern Bobwhites were very common on the counts in the 1960s but have steadily declined in each decade since that time. Current count totals on spring counts are a tenth of what they were in the 1960s. Although there may still be Bobwhites in areas that are less accessible to birders, it is probably

also true that birders are now deliberately going to places where Bobwhites are known to exist. It apparently took a great deal less effort to find this species before 1980.

Hunting was a key factor in the early decline of the Wild Turkey, but reintroduction of this species has been a great success and Turkeys now appear regularly on spring counts. This is also the case on Christmas Bird Counts in North Carolina. Wild Turkeys rarely appeared on CBCs before 1990, but since then they have been found every year, and often found in good numbers. If the current trend continues, count totals of Turkeys could exceed those of Bobwhites by the next decade, although the Bobwhite population could at least be partially restored if additional suitable habitat were maintained and properly managed.

The next pair includes the Bald Eagle and the American Kestrel. The Bald Eagle population declined dramatically in the 1960s and 1970s primarily from the effects of DDT on eggshell thickness, but numbers bounced back in the 1980s and have remained fairly steady on counts since then (Fig. 2). American Kestrel numbers are thought by some to be declining, but numbers on North Carolina spring counts have been fairly consistent throughout the past 50 years, although the current decade does show a slight decline. Results from Christmas Bird Counts in North Carolina over the same period are also inconclusive.

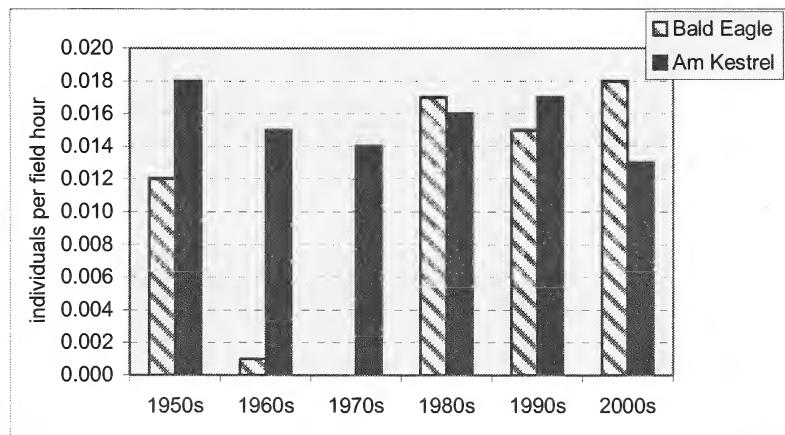


Figure 2: Bald Eagle and American Kestrel—Statewide

Another species thought by some to be declining throughout much of its breeding range is the Whip-poor-will, and indeed that appears to be the case in North Carolina (Fig. 3). Since the amount of time spent in the field at dawn and dusk and the phase of the moon are critical to locating this species, the comparison species chosen was a close relative, the Chuck-will's-widow. No dramatic overall population changes have been noted in the Chuck-will's-widow, although there does appear to be some local variation.

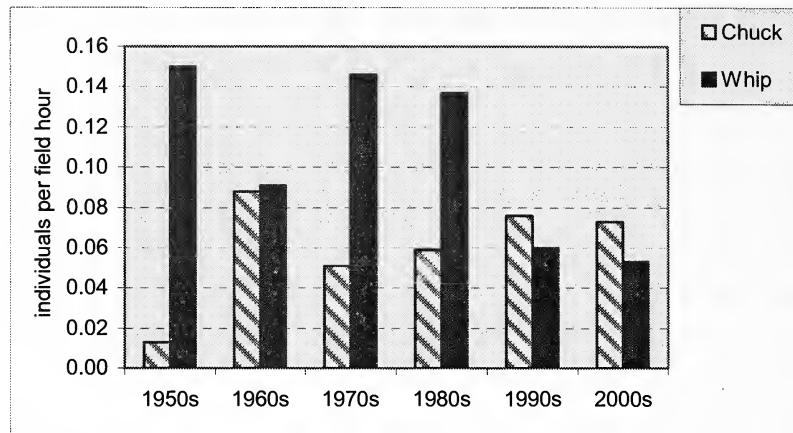


Figure 3: Chuck-will's-widow and Whip-poor-will—Statewide

The Wood Thrush is also thought by some to be declining in many parts of its range. While numbers were much greater in North Carolina in the 1950s and 1960s, and declined in the 1970s, they have remained fairly stable on counts since then (Fig. 4). The Black-throated Blue Warbler was chosen as a comparison species because it is also a neotropical migrant that occurs in ample numbers throughout the state in spring migration. The chart reveals an increase in Black-throated Blue numbers in the past two decades, but this is probably the result of wider coverage on the two mountain counts where the species is more common. Although using field-hours does help reduce increased coverage as a complicating factor, more birders usually mean larger areas are included, and in some areas like the mountains expanded coverage may mean that more forested areas with suitable habitat were included in the later counts.

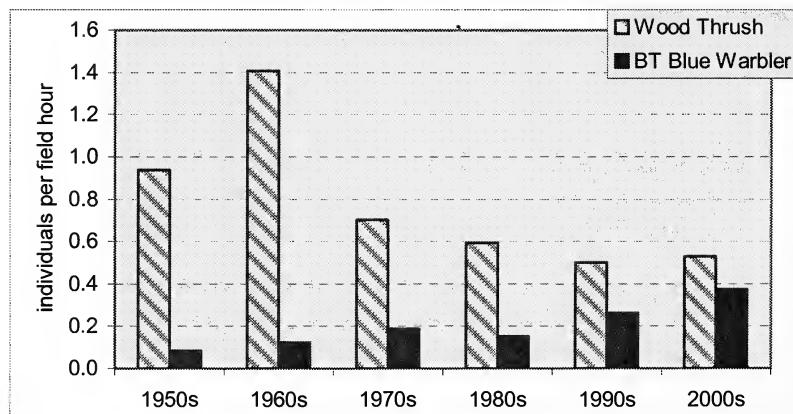


Figure 4: Wood Thrush and Black-throated Blue Warbler—Statewide

The next two charts focus on three grassland species that are declining largely as a result of habitat loss. Figure 5 shows the change in the population of Field Sparrows and Grasshopper Sparrows. As the chart demonstrates, Field Sparrows were once quite common on spring counts but their numbers are now less than one-third of what they were in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. In contrast, Grasshopper Sparrows were never very common in these selected count areas, but numbers have recently dwindled to the point where they are now unusual finds. Grasshopper Sparrows can be more difficult to locate, especially for birders with some hearing loss, but it is assumed that this difficulty was as true in 1955 as in 2005, and when species become rare, birders have a tendency to "stake them out" before a count to be sure that they do make the list. Thus, Grasshopper Sparrows may actually be even more uncommon than the numbers indicate.

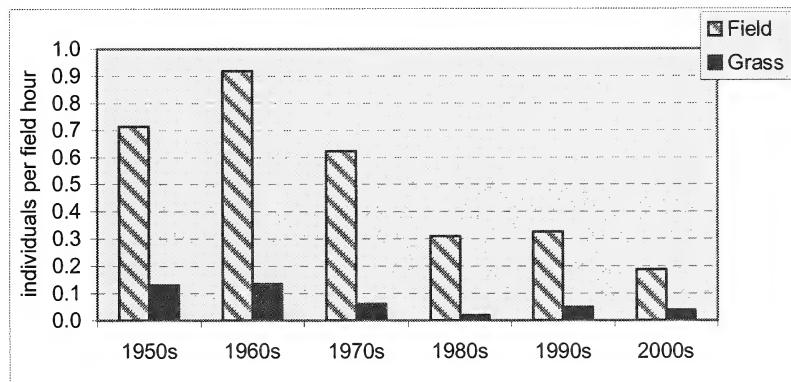


Figure 5: Field Sparrow and Grasshopper Sparrow—Statewide

The third grassland species that shows significant decline is the Eastern Meadowlark (Fig. 6). As with the other grassland species analyzed, Meadowlark numbers per party-hour have been declining steadily since the 1960s. This same decline is evident from the North Carolina Christmas Bird Counts. The Carolina Chickadee is included in this chart, not because it uses the same habitat, but because chickadee numbers were not expected to vary greatly over time. Finding another grassland species not affected by habitat loss is difficult.

Finally, in the statewide analysis of population changes two introduced species, the House Sparrow and House Finch, are included (Fig. 7). House Sparrow numbers skyrocketed in the 1960s, and even comments on many counts in that decade remark on the high numbers. Since then numbers have declined every decade. The decline probably stems at least in part from the growth of suburbia into former farmland areas. House Finches first reached North Carolina in the 1960s but do not appear on spring counts in any numbers until the 1980s. In the past two decades their numbers have surpassed those of the House Sparrow. In more recent years disease may be keeping House Finch numbers in check.

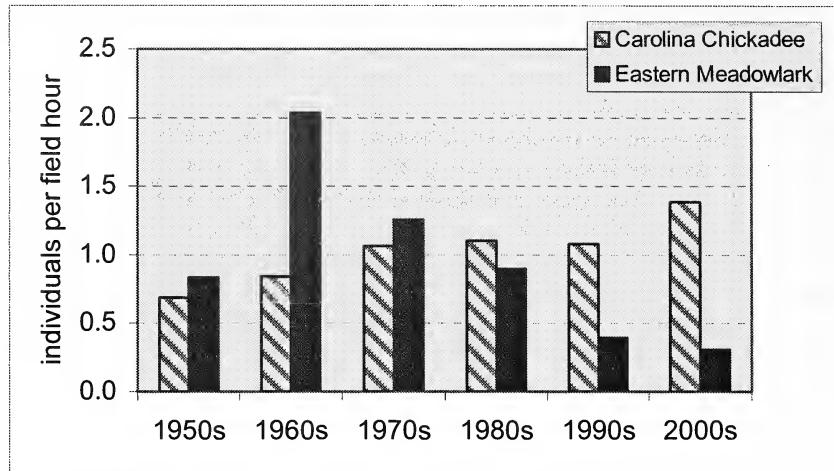


Figure 6: Carolina Chickadee and Eastern Meadowlark—Statewide

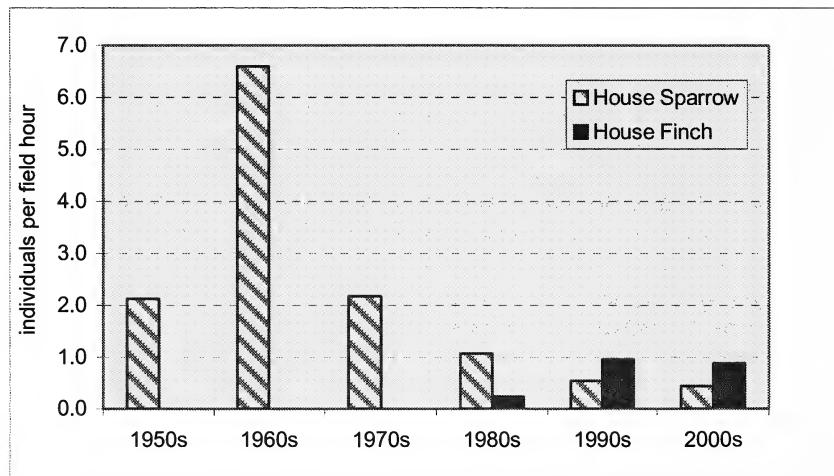


Figure 7: House Sparrow and House Finch—Statewide

Some species are of more regional interest. Since there is such consistent documentation from the piedmont, it is easier to make comparisons over time in that area. Figure 8 shows piedmont counts for Great Blue Heron and Canada Goose. The sudden increase in Great Blue Heron numbers in this decade may be a result of the recent increase in numbers of beaver ponds and the subsequent discovery of nesting colonies of these birds at these ponds. Habitat protected from human disturbance is critical for heron nesting, and its provision may be significant in the apparent increase in numbers. Resident Canada Goose populations have been burgeoning in the past two decades as the species has begun breeding in the southern states. It is now one of the most common species found in many North Carolina count areas.

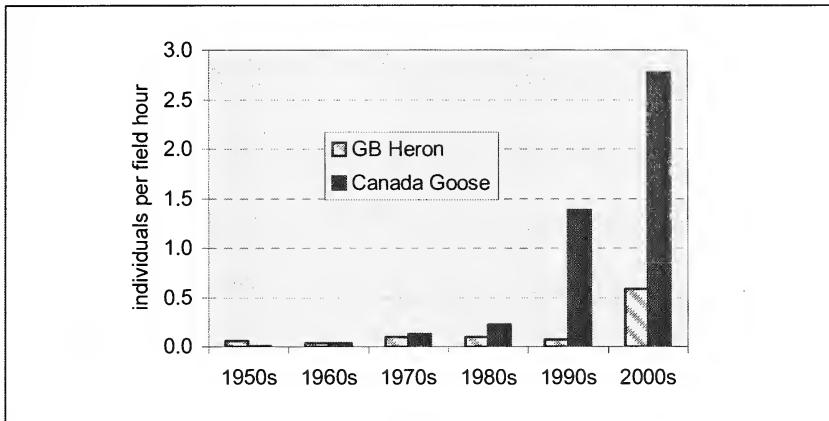


Figure 8: Great Blue Heron and Canada Goose—Piedmont

Some birders in the piedmont have indicated that the number of Song Sparrows appears to be increasing over time. The chart does not show a significant change over time from the piedmont counts included in this analysis (Fig. 9), but the number of this species is greatly affected by the weight of the counts from the inner and outer portions of the piedmont. Song Sparrows are much more common in the western piedmont. An analysis of Song Sparrow range expansion is probably better accomplished on a count-by-count basis. For example, the number of Song Sparrows on the Chapel Hill count has increased tenfold in this decade. In fact, on that count they now outnumber Field Sparrows, which have shown a decline. Here the Song Sparrow has been paired with the Chipping Sparrow, which has shown some variation on counts over the past 50 years.

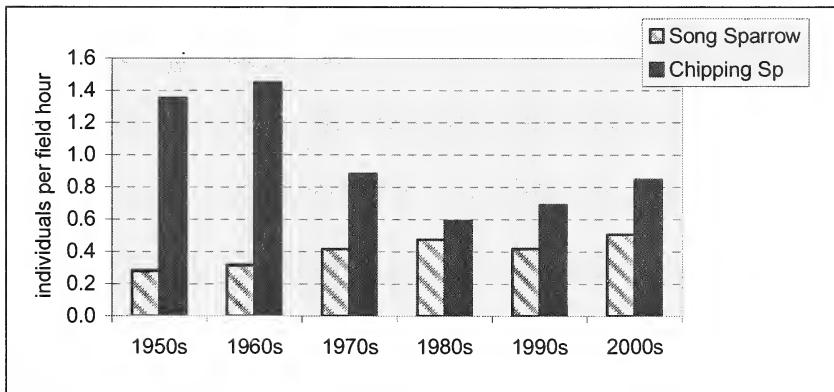


Figure 9: Song Sparrow and Chipping Sparrow—Piedmont

Finally, this analysis includes an overview of hawk populations in the piedmont. For whatever reason, the numbers of Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, and Cooper's Hawks sighted have increased considerably in the past two to three decades, while the numbers of Broad-winged and Sharp-shinned

Hawks have remained stable (Figs. 10 and 11). With only a few exceptions, the proportion of each species found in each count area over the years has remained about the same. Cooper's Hawks may be taking advantage of increased numbers of bird feeders where these hawks find relatively easy and concentrated targets.

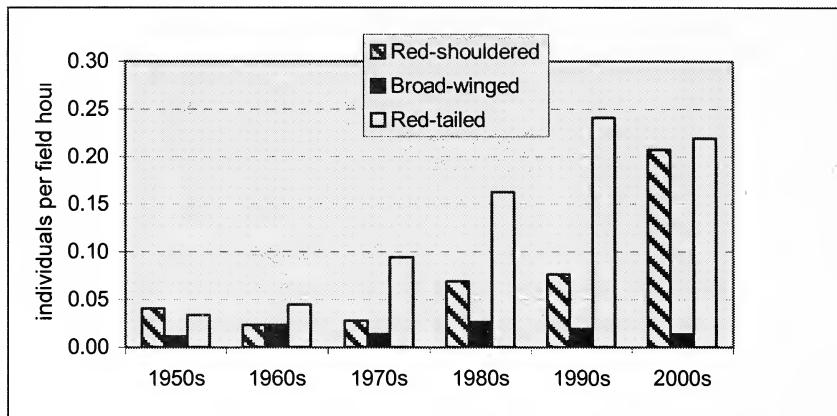


Figure 10: Red-shouldered, Broad-winged, and Red-tailed Hawks—Piedmont

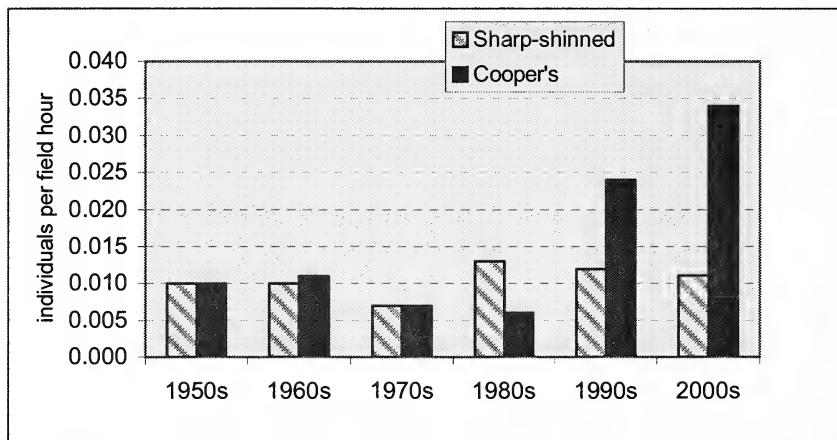


Figure 11: Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks—Piedmont

As mentioned, compiling the data from all of the spring counts through the years and putting them into a format easy to analyze is a huge undertaking. Once compiled, however, it can be made available to anyone interested in studying changing bird populations and analyzing range data.

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A South Carolina Winter Banding Recovery of a Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*), and a Review of the Species' Regional Winter Status

William Post

Charleston Museum, 360 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29404

Introduction

The Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) is a summer resident in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia, fairly common in the upper piedmont and mountains, rare in the lower piedmont, and casual on the coastal plain (Pearson et al. 1942, Post and Gauthreaux 1989, Beaton et al. 2003). It is a common to locally abundant autumnal migrant along the Blue Ridge Escarpment. Broad-winged Hawks winter primarily in central and northern South America, Mexico and Central America, but occasionally winter in small numbers in southern Florida (Stevenson and Anderson 1994). The reported increase of the species in the southern United States since the 1950s has not been confirmed (Goodrich et al. 1996). Several sightings indicate that it may be found in South Carolina in winter, but previously no material evidence was available. Here I report a January recovery of a banded Broad-winged Hawk in Georgetown County, SC. To place this record in context, I review the species' winter status in the region.

Results

On 24 January 2005 an individual (identity not reported) found a disabled Broad-winged Hawk in the Colonial Estates area of Georgetown (Georgetown County), South Carolina. The bird was taken to South Carolina Birds of Prey Center at Awendaw, SC, for rehabilitation. The hawk died, but its carcass was salvaged. It had a US Biological Survey band (1005-17027), which raptor center personnel removed and sent to the Bird Banding Laboratory. The hawk was identified as a hatching-year bird by Robert G. Thobaben Jr., who had banded it on 28 September 2004 at Montgomery, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati, 760 km northwest of Georgetown. The specimen was preserved as a standard study skin (WP933) and deposited in the Charleston Museum (ChM 2006.4.015). No bones were broken, but the muscles of the left shoulder were traumatized. The left testis measured 8 X 7 mm; the right testis was ruptured. The hawk weighed 242 g (normal range for male Broad-winged Hawks = 243–287 g; Goodrich et al. 1996) and had no visible fat deposits. Other measurements were: length of flattened wing: 24.7 cm; total length: 37.8 cm; wing span: 85.5 cm.

Discussion

The Broad-winged Hawk has been reported several times in winter in South Carolina, most often on winter (Christmas) bird counts, but no specimens, photographs, or even detailed reports are available, and, other than Wayne's missing 1889 specimen (see below), the latest reliable reports have been in late October (Post and Gauthreaux 1989, McNair and Post 1993).

Arthur T. Wayne reported collecting a Broad-winged Hawk on 15 January 1889 near Mt. Pleasant (Charleston County). The information is contained in his journal, under an entry for specimen number 2122 (Blue-headed Vireo, *Vireo solitarius*). Wayne noted that he "shot a Broad-winged Hawk in a muddy swamp—fine record". On that day (15 January), he was working in an area seven miles north of Charleston, near Porcher's Bluff, between "6-mile house" and "8-mile house". Wayne cites this record in *Birds of South Carolina* (1910), and it is later mentioned by Sprunt and Chamberlain (1949). However, Wayne's specimen catalog has no entry for a South Carolina Broad-wing, and no specimen can be found in any of the known repositories of Wayne's birds. (Wayne did collect several Broad-winged Hawks, but in Florida). Wayne was a meticulous scientist, who preserved all salvageable specimens that he collected, reporting unusual findings in *The Auk*. As Wayne did later mention the sighting (although without details), in *Birds of South Carolina* (1910), the record may be valid. However, Post and McNair (1990) believe the bird may have been a misidentified Red-shouldered Hawk that was destroyed or lost before Wayne could confirm its identification.

The second winter report was of a bird that Alexander Sprunt, Jr. saw on 19 January 1934 in St. Andrews Parish in Charleston. Other than a brief statement in Sprunt and Chamberlain (1949), no further details are available, and McNair and Post (1993) consider the report marginally acceptable. Sprunt and Chamberlain (1949) list two other winter sightings: one, Fairlawn Plantation (Charleston County), 26 December 1946 and one, 22 February 1947, Mt. Pleasant. Both reports lack details, and therefore seem questionable (Post and Gauthreaux 1989, McNair and Post 1993).

In Georgia, Beaton et al. (2003) list seven winter reports for the Broad-winged Hawk, two documented by specimens, and one by published details. I examined these two Georgia specimens. The first, which had been misidentified (Post and McNair 1990) as Red-shouldered Hawk when it was accessioned (Charleston Museum 52.117. 942) was collected by E. C. Morris near the Savannah River at Augusta (Richmond County), 20 February [1901] (Murphrey 1937). The collection year is not 1935 as given by Burleigh (1958) and subsequent authors (Haney et al. 1986, Beaton et al. 2003). The second Georgia winter specimen was collected at St. Marys, Camden Co. on 29 December 1902 (originally from the collection of I. F. Arnow, now at the University of Georgia [UGAMNH 553], see Johnston 1949). In addition, one was seen in Atlanta (DeKalb County) on 12 January 1968 (Fink 1969), apparently the only Georgia sighting supported by published details.

In North Carolina, A. Bryan photographed a juvenile at Cape Hatteras Point (Dare County), 27 December 1984. This appears to be the first verified winter occurrence of this species in that state (LeGrand 1985), although the location of the photograph has not been published. In addition, two reports by experienced observers may be valid: an adult at Buxton (Dare County), 30 Dec 1987 (P. Sykes and D. Hughes *in LeGrand 1988*) and a juvenile at Sneads Ferry (Onslow County) 17–19 January 1992 (G. Grant *in LeGrand 1993*). I have been unable to locate any winter specimens for North Carolina.

The winter status of the species in the Southeast remains unclear. The Carolinas have several sight reports from early to mid-December (Redshank Software 2006), but these probably pertain to late-departing birds. It is possible that Broad-wings, much of whose diet consists of arthropods, amphibians and reptiles (Goodrich et al. 1996), are able to survive in the Southeast only during mild winters. In South Carolina, temperatures in January 2005 were 4 °F above normal. It would be informative to examine the climatic conditions that existed at the time of earlier occurrences of the species. This species may now be classified as a casual winter vagrant in South Carolina and Georgia, and as an accidental winter visitor in North Carolina, and because of its rarity, state bird records committees should ask for detailed reports for mid-winter sightings.

Summary

A second-year male Broad-winged Hawk, which had been banded in September 2004 in southern Ohio, was found in January 2005 in Georgetown, SC, 760 km SE of the banding site. The bird died in captivity, but was salvaged as a specimen; this constitutes the first confirmed winter occurrence of the species in South Carolina. In addition, two winter specimens and one detailed report are known for Georgia; one has been photographed in North Carolina during winter. The species should be classified as a casual winter straggler in the Southeast, at least until additional documentation becomes available.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Susan Bogart and Maria Whitehead for searching the archives of the South Carolina Center for Birds of Prey. Becky Browning and John Gerwin provided information about North Carolina records. I also thank Robert G. Thobaben Jr. for banding the hawk, and the Bird Banding Laboratory of the US Geological Survey for providing the banding data. Thanks to John Gerwin and an anonymous reviewer for helpful comments.

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General Field Notes

General Field Notes briefly report such items as rare sightings, unusual behaviors, significant nesting records, or summaries of such items.

First, second, or third sightings of species in either state must be submitted to the appropriate Bird Records Committee prior to publication in The Chat.

Gray Catbird Anting at Sanderling, Dare County, North Carolina

Benjamin E. Leese

886 Menges Mills Road, Spring Grove, PA 17362, Ben.Leese@valpo.edu

Anting is a behavior in which birds either place ants on their skin and plumage (active anting) or allow ants to run onto their bodies (passive anting). Active anting is often characterized by very energetic, sometimes awkward, behavior; in passive anting birds remain relatively still in a sunning posture (Whitaker 1957; Potter and Hauser 1974). Anting is a subtype of self-anointing behaviors that are observed among a variety of animal species (Weldon 2004). The behavior has been observed among a wide variety of bird species, mainly passerines (Lunt et al. 2004).

The function of anting behavior remains hotly debated. Hypotheses to explain the behavior fall into three major groups. The most popular and widely accepted is that birds ant in order to rid themselves of ectoparasites (Ehrlich et al. 1986; Clark and Clark 1990; Clayton and Vernon 1993) or feather-degrading bacteria (Ehrlich et al. 1986; Clayton 1999). Some also suggest that birds ant in order to remove distasteful secretions from ants before ingesting them (Judson and Bennett 1992). The third hypothesis suggests that birds ant in order to soothe skin irritated during the process of molting (Potter 1970; Potter and Hauser 1974).

Recent work fails to support the parasite control hypothesis (Revis and Waller 2004; Cristol et al. 2005), and no evidence was found in a recent study in support of the food preparation hypothesis (Lunt et al. 2004). However, in a recent experiment with captive Cape White-eyes (*Zosterops pallidus*), birds anted more when molting than they did when not molting (Lunt et al. 2004). The following observation of a Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) anting fits best with the hypothesis that birds ant as a response to skin irritations.

On 10 August 2005, at 0702 EDT, I observed a Gray Catbird engaged in active anting. I was standing about 4 m above ground on the porch of a summer house in Sanderling, a village on the Outer Banks in northern Dare

County, NC. The bird stayed within 1.5 m of an ant mound on a sandy area underneath a tree. Upon later investigation, ants were seen crawling throughout the area, and there was activity around at least three ant hills.

The bird captured an ant in its bill and quickly applied the ant to its tail region. It repeated this behavior at least 15 times. On several occasions, the catbird stumbled backwards over its own tail, which was under its body and between its legs. The bird moved awkwardly throughout the episode. I did not see any evidence of the bird consuming the ants, which is not surprising because fruit is the major component of the catbird diet in late summer (Martin et al. 1951).

The morning was very warm and hazy (about 26 C). The area had been drenched by a thunderstorm soon after midnight on 10 August. From my vantage point I could not see any clear signs of molt in the catbird, but the bird was likely in molt, given catbirds' observed pattern of molting primaries and body feathers in August (Cimprich and Moore 1995). I observed the behavior for several minutes before the catbird flew away. I continued to watch the spot for 31 min and intermittently throughout the day without seeing additional anting behavior.

Potter (1970), Hauser (1973) and Potter and Hauser (1974) previously reported anting by Gray Catbirds in North Carolina, although not on the immediate coast. There are also other reports of anting by the species from eastern North America (Brackbill 1948; Groskin 1950). Post (1993) observed Boat-tailed Grackles (*Quiscalus major*) anting repeatedly on Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, but the present report is the first from the immediate coast of North Carolina.

While this single observation does not solve the mystery of anting, the circumstances surrounding this episode provide some evidence to discuss the proposed hypotheses. I saw no behavior that would support the food preparation hypothesis. Thunderstorms likely increase the rate of molting (Potter and Hauser 1974), and this episode occurred during the annual peak of anting activity noted by Potter and Hauser (1974, see also Potter 1970; Hauser 1973). It appears possible that the catbird may have been responding to a skin irritation by anting. While this observation can not exclude the ectoparasite control hypothesis, it fits best within the framework of the hypothesis that birds ant in order to soothe skin irritations often associated with molting.

Acknowledgements

Eloise F. Potter reviewed the manuscript and has provided encouragement throughout my years of fascination with anting behavior. Barbara Ballentine and an anonymous reviewer also provided helpful comments.

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Wood Ducks at Bass Lake, Blowing Rock, NC, 23 June 2006. Photo by Jeff Lewis

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

Ricky Davis
608 Smallwood Drive
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
RJDNC@aol.com

(All dates Summer 2006, unless otherwise noted)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter	December 1–February 28	due March 20
Spring	March 1–May 31	due June 20
Summer	June 1–July 31	due August 20
Fall	August 1–November 30	due December 20

Reports can be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you type them and list the sightings according to the birds in checklist order (not according to dates or locations). If you submit your report to me through e-mail, please type your report directly into the message or copy it from a word processing program directly into the message. You may also attach your file to the e-mail, but if you do, please let me know the program used and also send a second version saved as a text (.txt) file.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: One at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC 6 July (Wayne Forsythe) was considered to be quite early, as most start returning late in the month or in August.

REDHEAD: A male was unusual in that it summered at Currituck, NC, being noted 18 July by Scott Jennex.

RING-NECKED DUCK: Lingering Ring-neckeds included a female at Bass Lake, Watauga County, NC 22 June (Jeff Lewis) and five at the Futch Game Land impoundments, Tyrrell County, NC 4 June (Ricky Davis). Of interest was that a pair of these birds gave repeated distraction displays as if young were hiding nearby.

SCOTERS: A few scoters will sometimes linger into early summer along the coast. An amazing report came from the rocky outcrop area of Ft. Fisher, NC 11 June when 15 were noted (Ricky Davis). This group consisted of 12 Blacks, one White-winged, and two Surfs. This was a very large number for that late, and summer reports of White-wingeds are very unusual.

HOODED MEGANSER: Nesting occurred again at an area near Trenton, Jones County, NC this summer as evidenced by eight young 7 July (Clancy Ballenger).

RED-BREASTED MEGANSER: The only report of a summering Red-breasted involved one on the beach at Folly Island, SC 7 July, as noted by Jason Giovannone.

COMMON LOON: One flying north near Dump Island, Carteret County, NC 3 June (Paul Sykes, Wayne Irvin, Wade Fuller) was probably a late migrant. Summering individuals were at Clarks Hill Res., SC 11 July (Paul Champlin) and at Huntington Beach State Park, SC 8 July (Jack Peachey et al.). The latter bird, as is often the case with summering birds, appeared to be sick.

PIED-BILLED GREBE: Pied-billed Grebes are rather localized as breeders in much of the Carolinas. Thus of interest was the presence of at least eight (mostly young) at a borrow pit pond along the new US 64 bypass in Washington County, NC 29 July (Jeff Lewis). Up to three pairs were here this summer as noted by Jeff Pippen, Will Cook, and Harry LeGrand, Jr. Also, one summered at a White Oak Creek beaver pond in eastern Chatham County, NC, as noted by Merrill Lynch.

BERMUDA PETREL: Another petrel that has become annual off North Carolina, only during the last decade, is the Bermuda Petrel. This summer's sighting was off Hatteras 4 June (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

FEA'S PETREL: The only summer report of this rare-but-annual species came from the waters off Hatteras, NC 2 June (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

MANX SHEARWATER: This species usually migrates north into early June, and this year's reports, all off Hatteras, NC included one on 3 June, two on 11 June, and one on 16 June (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Two off Hatteras 16 July were somewhat rarer for mid-summer off our coast (Patteson, Inc.).

STORM-PETRELS: Six Leach's and 21 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels off Hatteras, NC 1 July were the peak counts noted for these species during the summer (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

TROPICBIRDS: White-tailed Tropicbird reports included one off John's Inlet, SC 16 June (Nathan Dias) and two to three off Hatteras, NC 1 July (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Sightings of unidentified tropicbirds involved one off Hatteras 10 June (Patteson, Inc.) and three off Morehead City, NC 21 June (*side* John Fussell).

BROWN BOOBY: One was found on the beach at Bald Head Island, NC 16 June (Maureen Dewire). The bird appeared to be sick but could still fly; and it could possibly be the same individual that was noted there during the previous month.

NORTHERN GANNET: The only report received of a summering gannet was of an immature bird flying south over the breakers at Coquina Beach, Dare County, NC 16 July (Ricky Davis).

ANHINGA: Up to six Anhingas were present at a beaver pond along White Oak Creek in eastern Chatham County, NC from the spring through the summer. One to two nests were started, with one pair seen incubating during July, but by the end of the month the nests apparently failed (Lynch). This is the farthest inland in North Carolina that nesting activity has been noted for this species. Also, three were seen at a swamp on the western side of upper Jordan Lake 29 July (Cynthia Fox et al.), an area not too far from the White Oak Creek location.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: Frigatebird reports in the Carolinas, although annual, still merit mention. In South Carolina one was at Edisto Beach 4 June (Craig Watson), and another was at Bird Island, Cape Romain NWR 30 June (*fide* Nathan Dias). In North Carolina singles were noted at Oregon Inlet 1 June (Nathan Dias), over the New River at Sneads Ferry 30 June (Gilbert Grant), in the Wrightsville Beach area during mid-July (Walker Golder et al.), in the Salvo area the first week of July (Ginny Gillam, Russ Lay), and in the sound at Roanoke Island 15 July (Scott Jennex).

GREAT BLUE HERON: The first known nest of this species for the mountains, noted during the spring near Brevard, NC, was successful and young had fledged by mid-June, as noted by Tom Joyce.

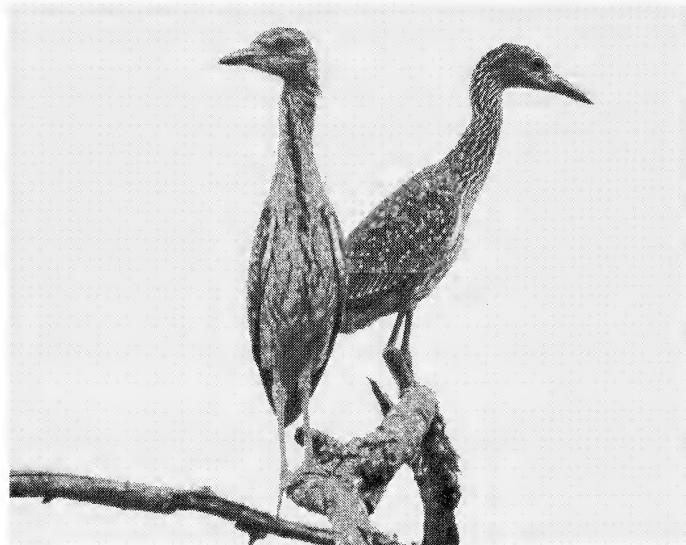
GREAT "WHITE" HERON: An individual of this form of the Great Blue Heron was reported during July at the Edenton, NC waterfront (Betsy Bennett, Bill Miller, sev. obs.). Apparently the bird has been present in the area for over a year, consistent with the habit of lengthy stays noted with previous Great "White" Herons in the Carolinas.

SNOWY EGRET: Two were somewhat early post-breeding wanderers at L. Wylie, SC 14 June, as noted by Chris Huffstickler.

REDDISH EGRET: This summer's post-breeding visitors included singles near Bird Key, Folly Beach, SC 30 June (Jack Peachey), at Sunset Beach, NC 15 and 22 July (Scott Jennex, Ricky Davis et al.), along the Pamlico Sound shore near Hatteras, NC 27 July (Brian Patteson), at Huntington Beach State Park, SC 28 July (Peachey, Paul Rogers), and along the Pocataligo River, SC 31 July (Nathan Dias).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: This species is an annual breeder at a few localized inland areas in the Carolinas. The most interesting report this summer involved the presence of up to two adults and 11 immature birds, at the New Hope Impoundment, Chapel Hill, NC during July (Toby Nathan, Mike Johnson, sev. obs.). This is the highest count from this area, which has hosted the species several times previously. Elsewhere

an immature Black-crowned was a good find at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 15 July (Ron Selvey).



Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, New Hope Impoundment, Chapel Hill, NC, 23 July 2006. Photo by Kent Fiala.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: This summer's reports involved up to six in the Bulls Island, SC area during most of July (Nathan Dias), one to two in the Calabash Creek-Twin Lakes area of Sunset Beach, NC during July (Steve Holzman, sev. obs.), and one along the Congaree River in Congaree Nat. Park, Richland County, SC 30 July (Mike Turner). The latter bird provided the second record of the species for that area!

WOOD STORK: Locally unusual reports for North Carolina included two over the Black River near Ivanhoe, Sampson County 12 June (Gilbert Grant) and one near Trenton, Jones County 7 July (Clancy Ballenger). Also, the species nested again at a pond in extreme southeastern Columbus County, NC for at least the second year in a row (*fide* David Allen). This only known nesting colony in the state had at least 100 birds present this summer.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: This species was once again found along the Cape Fear River in the Bladen-Columbus Counties area this summer. Generally in the area of the Lock and Dam No. 1, six were observed 11 June (Ricky Davis), with the birds being obviously paired up. At least one pair was present through the end of July (Davis, Greg Massey, Robin Hall, Eric & Celia Dean, Sharon Funderburk) but no nesting evidence was observed.

NORTHERN HARRIER: One was extremely late, especially for an inland location, near Columbia, SC in lower Richland County 3 June (Mike Turner).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: This species is much less common in the Carolinas during summer than the Cooper's Hawk. Thus of note were reports involving one at Chapel Hill, NC during June (Will Cook), one at Durham,

NC 11 July (Cook), one seen carrying food at Roan Mt., NC 28 June (Rick Knight), and one near Winston-Salem, NC 1 July (Jeff Pippen, John Dole).

AMERICAN COOT: Coots are found in the Carolinas each summer at a few localized places. This summer the most interesting reports involved five at the Futch Game Land impoundments, Tyrrell County, NC 4 June (Ricky Davis), up to 11 at the Salt Pond, Cape Hatteras, NC all summer (Pat & Neal Moore, Davis, sev. obs.), two that summered along the Edenton, NC waterfront (Davis), and the successful breeding of several pairs at the Goldsboro, NC WTP again this summer (Eric Dean et al.).

AMERICAN AVOCET: One was a good local find, and somewhat early, at Huntington Beach State Park, SC 8 July (Mike Walker, Jack Peachey et al.).

UPLAND SANDPIPER: The first southbound migrants for the Carolinas included two at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 7 July (Nathan Dias), one at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 16 and 23 July (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Carol Reigle), and one at the Manteo, NC airport 24 and 30 July (Jeff Lewis, Ricky Davis).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: Two flying by Huntington Beach State Park, SC 30 July (Ritch Lilly, *fide* Jack Peachey) were probably part of the wintering flock south of there in the Cape Romain NWR area.

RED KNOT: Nineteen on the beach at Portsmouth Island, NC 28 July (Scott Baron et al.) were very early fall migrants.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: One at Cape Hatteras, NC 10 June (Curtis Dykstra) was quite late for that species in the Carolinas.

WILSON'S SNIPE: A Wilson's Snipe was considered rather early at the rice fields near Roper, NC 29 July (Jeff Lewis), as the species does not normally start showing up in our area until mid-late August.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK: Summer sightings of woodcock are always noteworthy as the species is a localized, uncommon summer resident in the Carolinas. This season, one was observed near the Charlotte, NC airport 20 July (Alan Kneidel).

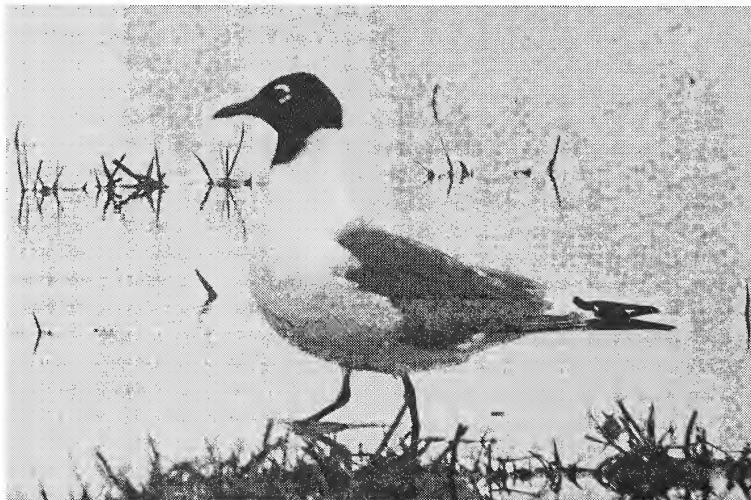
WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Only one Wilson's was noted this summer, that being at Pea Island NWR, NC 18 July (Scott Jennex).

FRANKLIN'S GULL: An adult Franklin's in alternate plumage was a complete surprise at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 26 June (John Lindfors, Wayne Forsythe). This bird provided the first June report for the state and the second ever for the mountains region.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Once again this species spent the summer at several coastal locations in the Carolinas. The numbers seem to be increasing each year, and the best count this year was of 19 (involving all ages) on the beach at Frisco, NC 29 July (Scott Baron).

SOOTY TERN: Offshore sightings this summer included 11 out of John's Inlet, SC 16 June (Nathan Dias), five off Hatteras, NC 1 July (Brian Patteson, Inc.), and one out of Murrell's Inlet, SC 21 July (Jack Peachey).

BRIDLED TERN: The peak counts reported this summer were the 27 out of John's Inlet, SC 16 June (Nathan Dias) and the 16 off Hatteras, NC 1 July (Brian Patteson, Inc.).



Franklin's Gull, Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 26 June 2006.
Photo by Wayne Forsythe.

LEAST TERN: Rooftop nesting continues to occur in the Carolinas as evidenced by the 120+ at a site in Atlantic Beach, NC 11 June (John Fussell) and 120+ at a site in Wilmington, NC 13 June (Greg Massey).

CASPIAN TERN: One was slightly early inland at L. Wheeler, Wake County, NC 15 July, as noted by Jacob Socolar.

BLACK TERN: One was a good find and a little early inland at L. Wheeler, NC 15 July (Jacob Socolar).

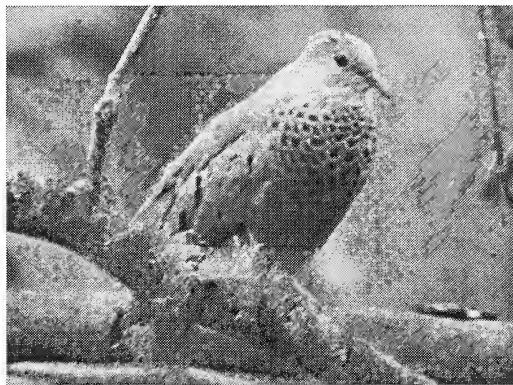
SOUTH POLAR SKUA: Only two reports were received this summer, with singles off Beaufort Inlet, NC 1 June (Jack Fennell) and off Hatteras, NC 4 June (Brian Patteson, Inc.). The number of reports of this species from North Carolina has been down the last couple of years.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: This summer's sightings of this uncommon jaeger included singles off Hatteras, NC 2 and 4 June (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE: One was a complete surprise in the Mills River valley, Henderson County, NC 25 June–9 July (Marilyn Westphal, Wayne Forsythe, sev. obs.). This wayward bird provided only about the third mountains report, the first since the mid-1980s.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: One was heard in the Bodie Island Lighthouse, NC area 10 June (Curtis Dykstra). This species has a history of late, lingering individuals along the North Carolina coast.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: One was present along Shimpock Rd., Cabarrus County, NC 1–22 June (John Buckman), in an area where summering birds have been noted previously. Very unexpected, however, was the Willow found near the coast at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 18 June–9 July (John Fussell et al.). Summering Willow Flycatchers are extremely rare away from the western portions of the Carolinas, especially along the coast!



Common Ground-Dove, Henderson County, NC, 25 June 2006. Photo by Wayne Forsythe.

EASTERN PHOEBE: This species normally is absent from the outer Coastal Plain during the summer, thus of note were singles on Hilton Head Island, SC 6 June (Jack Colcolough) and near Havelock, Craven County, NC 27 July (John Fussell).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: The pair that nested several years in Union County, NC south of Monroe was present again this summer 18 June–late July (Anne & Blayne Olsen). The birds apparently attempted to nest on a transmission tower but no evidence of young was noticed this year. The male Scissor-tailed that appeared in Southern Pines, Moore County, NC during the spring was joined by a female by 7 June (Mike Johnson et al.) and this pair attempted to nest three times during the summer with the last attempt apparently being successful, as the birds were observed carrying food and fecal sacs 30 July (Carol Bowman).

WARBLING VIREO: Summer reports away from the northwestern corner of North Carolina are always noteworthy. This summer one was at Fletcher Park, Fletcher, NC 24 June (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), and an adult feeding one young was at Beaver Lake, Asheville, NC 1 July (Simon Thompson).

BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO: One found singing in a yard in Manteo, NC 29 June (Jeff Lewis) was photographed and should represent about the seventh for that state! What is it about North Carolina getting so many Black-whiskereds when compared to other nearby states?

COMMON RAVEN: More central North Carolina sightings of this species involved singles at Umstead State Park, Wake County 11 June (Brian Murphy) and at Southern Pines, Moore County 19 July (Wayne Irvin).

HORNED LARK: Good reports from (or outside of) the extreme eastern edge of this species' normal range included 10 in western Washington County, NC 21 June (Jeff Pippen, Harry LeGrand, Jr., Will Cook), one along Hardwick Rd., Horry County, SC 1 July (Steve Thomas), and 50 at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 30 July (John Fussell et al.), with most of these being young birds of the year.



Black-whiskered Vireo, Manteo, NC, 29 June 2006. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH: One was very late at Miller Park, Winston-Salem, NC 8 June, as noted by Ann & Chester Robertson and Bert Hollifield.

AMERICAN PIPIT: An adult was seen and heard at close range on the Dortches BBS just north of Rocky Mount, NC on the amazing date of 22 June (Mark Johns). Summer occurrences of this species in the Carolinas are practically unheard of, and why one was here in mid-June is unexplainable.

CEDAR WAXWING: Once again this species was present at scattered locations in the eastern Carolinas this summer. Of particular note were the “small flock” on James Island, SC 25 June (Dennis Forsythe), small numbers on the North Carolina Outer Banks during the summer (Jeff Lewis, sev. obs.), and two in the Croatan Nat. Forest, Craven County, NC 17 July (John Fussell).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: Three males were on territory at the usual Roan Mt., NC area this summer, as noted by Rick Knight.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: This summer's reports came from the usual locations, with a male at Grandfather Mt., NC 20 June (Jeff Lewis) and two birds at Roan Mt., NC 25–28 June (Rob Biller, Allan Trently et al., Rick Knight).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: One was a rather late spring migrant at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC 3 June, as noted by Dwayne Martin.

WORM-EATING WARBLER: One found singing at Congaree Nat. Park, Richland County, SC 10 June (Robin Carter) provided one of only a handful of summer records for the park.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: One on territory near the Charlotte, NC airport in Mecklenburg County 20 July (Alan Kneidel) provided the third breeding-season report for the species in the county this summer!

OVENBIRD: Two singing at Congaree Nat. Park, Richland County, SC 10 June (Robin Carter) constituted the first June record for the park.

INDIGO BUNTING: Four singing males were noted in spruce-fir openings on Roan Mt., NC 19 July (Rick Knight); the species is unusual at that elevation.

PAINTED BUNTING: Three on the Merrimon BBS in Carteret County, NC 11 June (John Fussell) were considered to be somewhat inland and north of the usual range for the species.

DICKCISSEL: Reports this summer involved one southwest of McBee, Chesterfield County, SC 8 June (Robin Carter), two at Santee NWR, SC 16 June (Irvin Pitts), three to four territorial males just north of Pettigrew State Park, NC 21 June–1 July (Jeff Pippen, Harry LeGrand, Jr., Will Cook; Ricky Davis), and 17 were back at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 11 June (John Fussell et al.). This was the second year in a row that large numbers summered at this location, and this year a nest was found 25 June (Jack Fennell).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE:

The nesting pair along Shimpock Rd., Cabarrus County, NC first noted during May apparently was unsuccessful as no young were seen (sev. obs.). The birds were last noted in the area 22 June.

RED CROSSBILL: Summer reports of this enigmatic species included two in Blowing Rock, NC 21–23 June (Jeff Lewis), five on Roan Mt., NC 28 June (Rick Knight), and 30 along the road up Mt. Mitchell, NC 7 July (Marilyn Westphal). Of interest was that this large group of crossbills consisted of only about three females with the rest being juveniles!



Red Crossbill, Blowing Rock, NC, 21 June 2006. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

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NC Vice-Presidents:	John Ennis, Leland, NC	swampwolf@thebusinessbirder.com
	Simon Thompson, Asheville, NC	travel@birdventures.com
SC Vice-President:	Marion Clark, Lexington, SC	mclark66@sc.rr.com
Secretary:	Prunella Williams, Hope Mills, NC	Prunella.Williams@att.net
Treasurer:	Bruce Smithson, Wilmington, NC	wsmithson@ec.rr.com
NC Members-at-Large:	Lena Gallitano, Raleigh, NC	lena_gallitano@ncsu.edu
	Ed Toone, Wilmington, NC	batest@att.net
	Gail Lankford, Asheville, NC	whocooksforyou@charter.net
	Dwayne Martin, Hickory, NC	redxbill@charter.net
SC Members-at-Large:	J. Drew Lanham, Clemson, SC	lanhamj@clemson.edu
	Linda Kolb, Seneca, SC	rapahana4@hotmail.com

EX-OFFICIO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chat Editor:	Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC	chat@carolinabirdclub.org
Newsletter Editor:	Steve Shultz, Apex, NC	newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org
Immediate Past President:	Bob Wood, Ridgeway, SC	wood@rtt-law.com

HEADQUARTERS SECRETARY

Dana Harris, 6325 Falls of the Neuse Road, STE 9 PMB 150, Raleigh NC 27615
hq@carolinabirdclub.org

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